デルレイ

MY HEAVENLY HOCKEY CLUB 5

AI MORINAGA

Ballantine Books

DEL REY

WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

Hana is invited to visit her friend Daisuke at his family's inn at Mt. Iwate, where an abominable snowman has been sighted. Izumi can see through Daisuke's innocent country-boy act, but can he save Hana from Daisuke's advances? And will Izumi actually see an abominable snowman?

INCLUDES IN-DEPTH TRANSLATION NOTES AND A PREVIEW OF THE NEXT VOLUME!

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My Heavenly Hockey Club

5

Ai Morinaga

Translated and adapted by Athena Nibley and Alethea Nibley

Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

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My Heavenly Hockey Club volume 5 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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A capybara from the Shanghai Zoo, Mogo'o-kun (named by me). I just love how under his nose is so long. *Huʃʃ, huʃʃ*. But when I think that he's a rat, I don't like it so much. This photo is from almost ten years ago, so he may no longer be in this world. Rest in peace, Mogo'o. If you're still alive, I'm sorry. Er, he might be a girl.
—Ai Morinaga

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

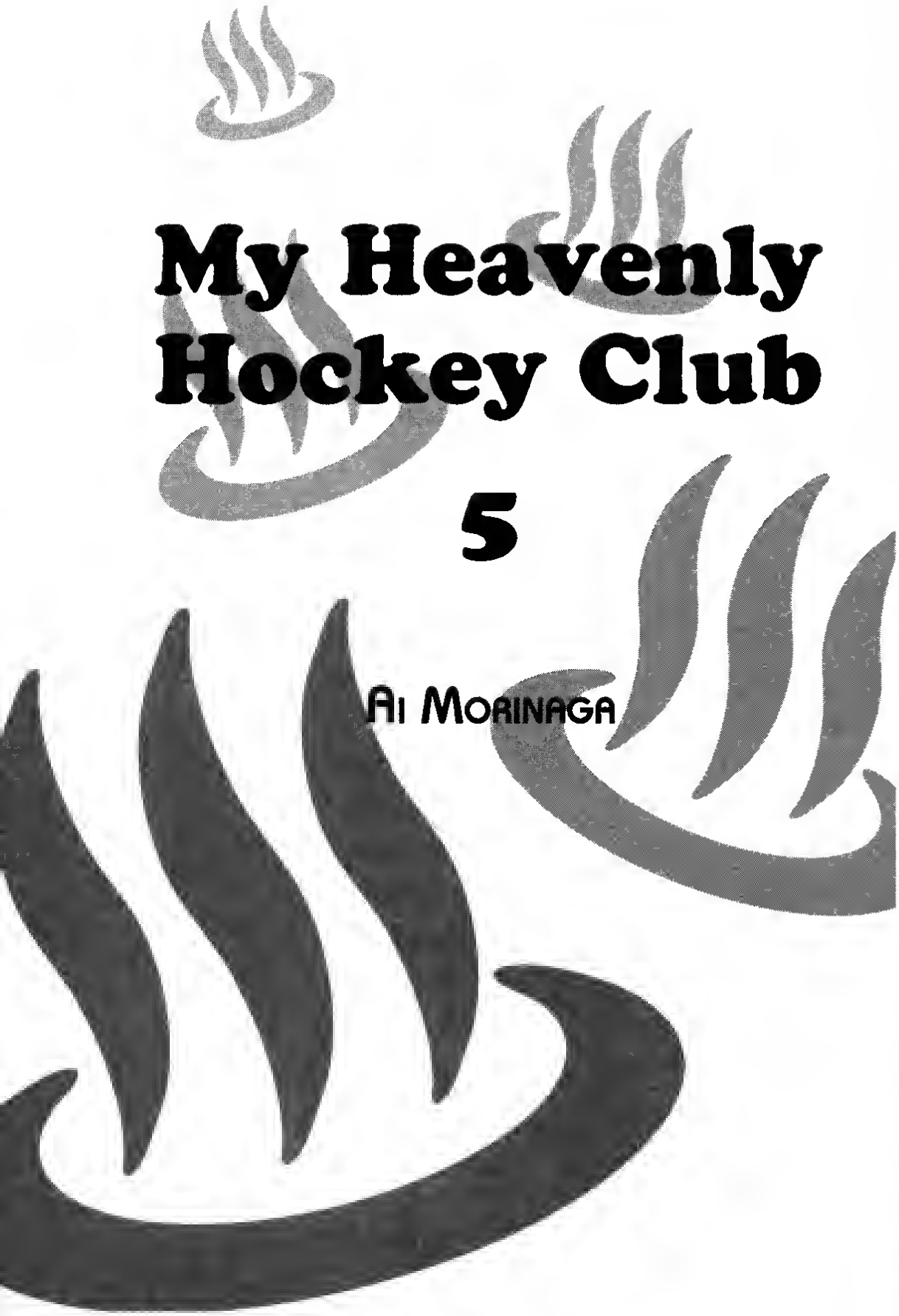
Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

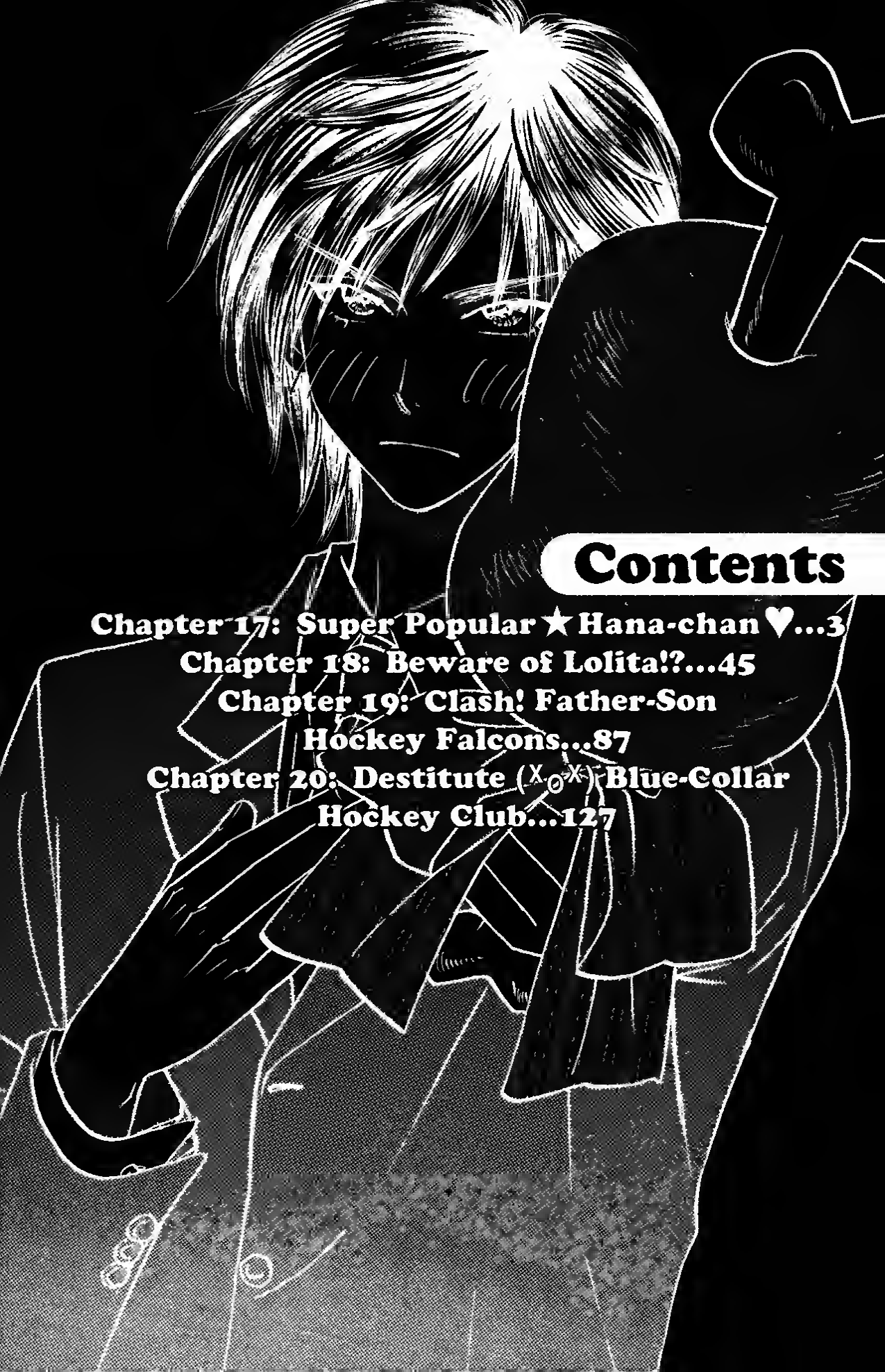
-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.



My Heavenly Hockey Club

5

Ai Morinaga



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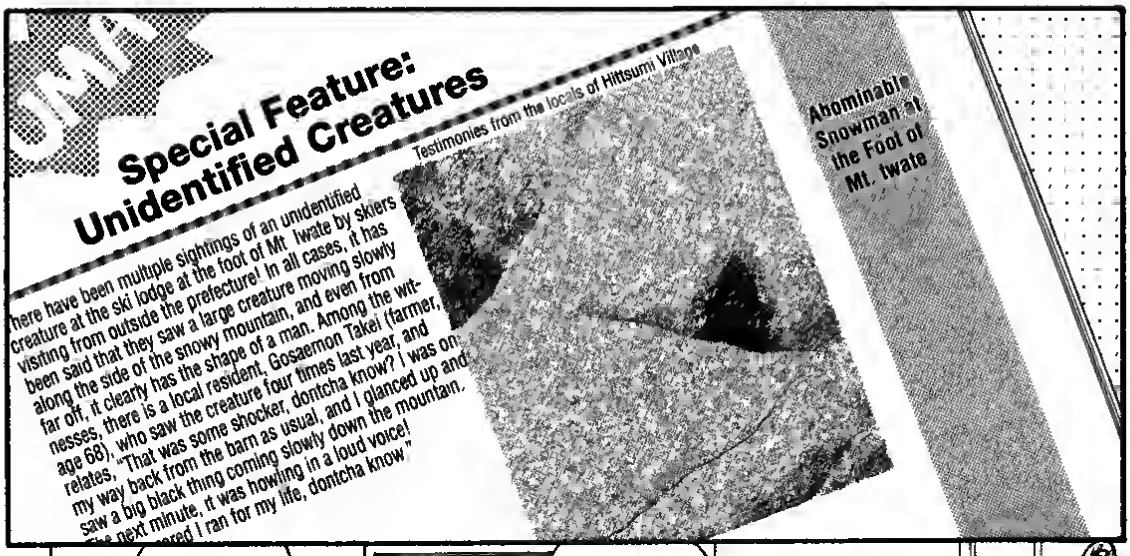
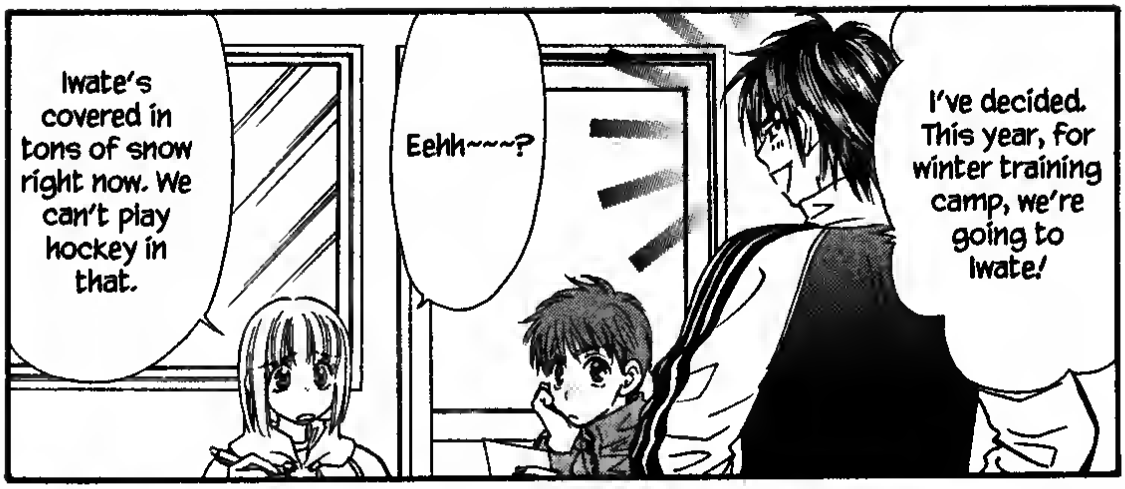
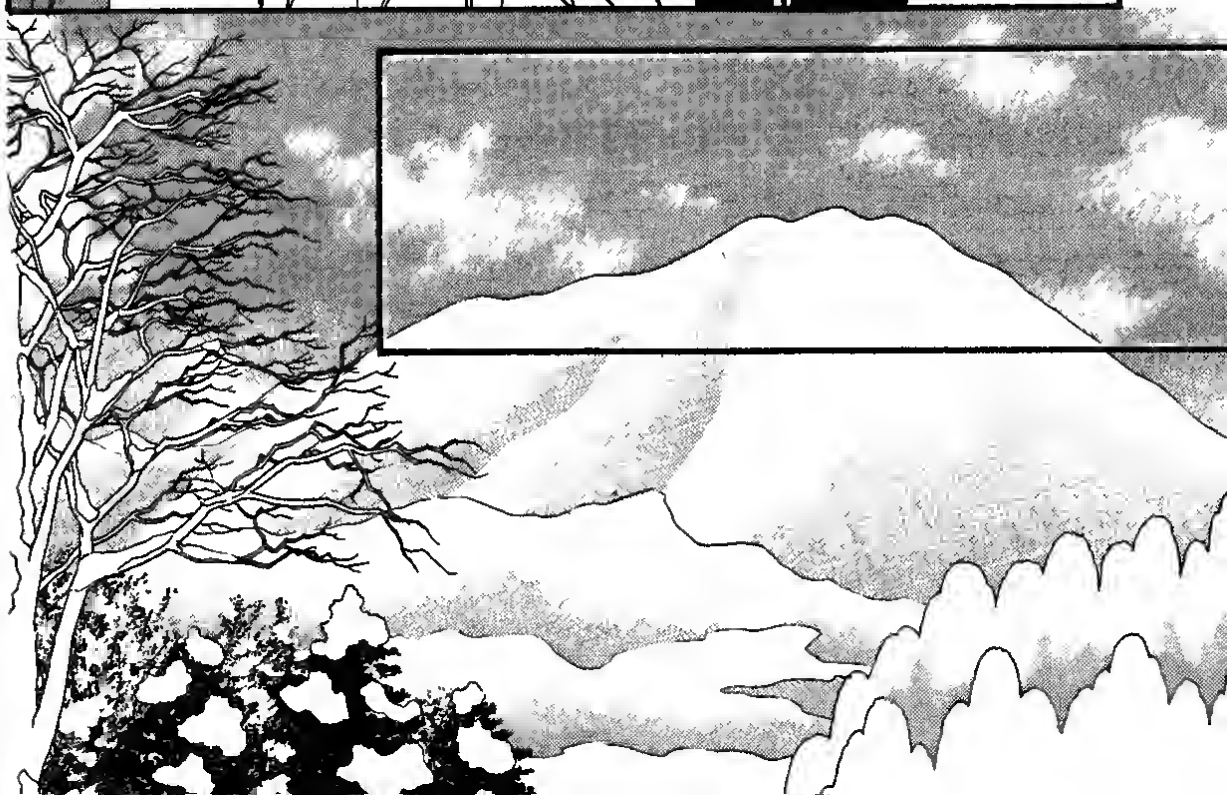
Chapter 17: Super Popular★ Hana-chan♥


Special Feature:
Unidentified Creatures
Testimonies from the locals of Hittsumi Village
here have been multiple sightings of an unidentified creature at the ski lodge at the foot of Mt. Iwate by skiers visiting from outside the prefecture! In all cases, it has been said that they saw a large creature moving slowly along the side of the snowy mountain, and even from far off, it clearly has the shape of a man. Among the witnesses, there is a local resident, Gosaemon Takei (farmer, age 68), who saw the creature four times last year, and relates, "That was some shocker, dontcha know? I was on my way back from the barn as usual, and I glanced up and saw a big black thing coming slowly down the mountain. The next minute, it was howling in a loud voice! I ran for my life, dontcha know."
Abominable Snowman at the Foot of Mt. Iwate

Oh. Yeah.
An old friend of mine is running an inn in Iwate.
On this postcard.
What's this? A hot spring?
We haven't talked in a while, so he sent a postcard asking me to come visit, but I don't have any friends who can go when I can.
All right, let's go!
Have you heard of Hittsumi Village?
He says they're doing really well these days.
PERK
Wow, that's an impressive inn.
Moo
Uma Special Feature: Unidentified Creatures


Iwate's covered in tons of snow right now. We can't play hockey in that.
Eehh~~~?
I've decided. This year, for winter training camp, we're going to Iwate!

Koiwai Farm!!
Uni! Maesawa beef!
I don't care anymore.
Oh. Really.
And we're gonna meet a yeti!
What are you talking about? Everyone knows winter training camp means *skiing* and *hot springs!*

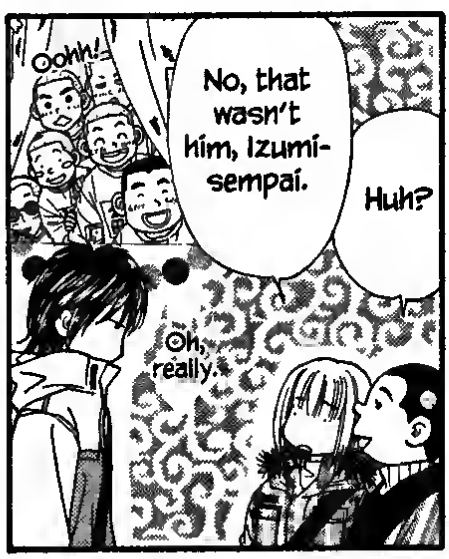


Hana-chan!
Dai-chan!
Wow, how long has it been? Seven years!?
Yeah! Since Pa escaped the white-collar world and we moved.
Thanks for comin' such a long way~~
Adult Yeti

Things really are different in the city, eh~~
Hana-chan, you've gotten so much cuter, dontcha know~~
Oh~~ There you go again!
It's so true!
You haven't changed a bit, Dai-chan~~
Now
Seven years ago
Well? Where are the members of your club?
Ah, over there.
Thanks for having us.
Ack!

Th-the members of your club...
are guys?
Yeah.
I, I see.
Eh?
Don't tell me that one of these is her boyfriend, eh?*
TCH

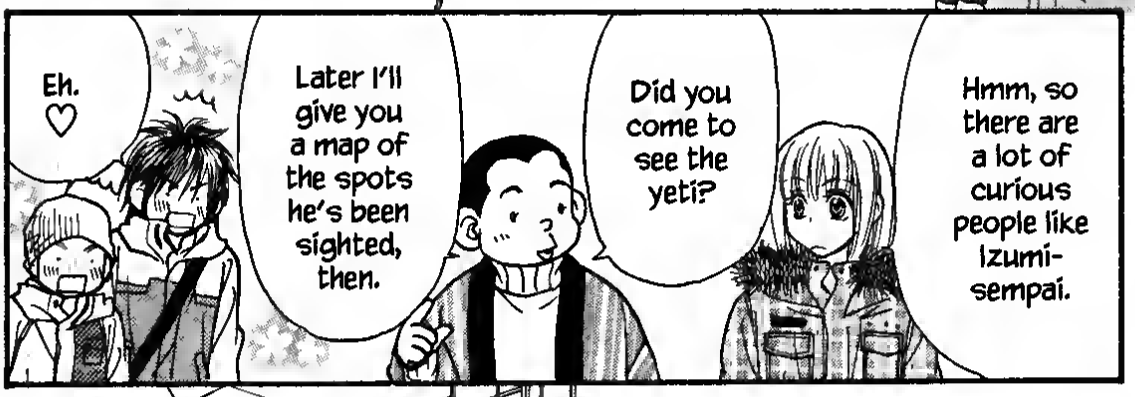
This is Daisuke Yamashita. He's the one who sent the postcard.
Oh, nothing. City people are so refined. I thought they were celebrities, dontcha know.


Oohh!
No, that wasn't him, Izumi-sempai.
Huh?
Oh, really.

Didn't we meet in Yamagata once?
N-nice to meet you, eh?
When we were little, he lived near my grandpa in the country, and we'd play together all the time during summer break and stuff.

*See Volume 2

Wow, this is some inn.
Yeti
We've just renovated, dontcha know.
Local Specialty: Yeti Manjû
A long time ago, we didn't get any customers at all.
But since the rumors started some years back about the abominable snowman, we've gotten a lot more sightseers there, dontcha know~~


Hmm, so there are a lot of curious people like Izumi-sempai.
Did you come to see the yeti?
Later I'll give you a map of the spots he's been sighted, then.
Eh. ♡

Would you like to try this delicacy?
SOFT CREAM
YETI
雪男ソフト
Yeti softcream!
Erk!

MUNCH
はぐ
MUNCH
Looks good~
MUNCH
はぐ
It's okay, it's okay. ♡
You just had some *daiginjô* softcream at Morioka Station. You'll make yourselves sick.
Hana-chan is my princess, who came from the city at Bon Festival and New Year's~~
My first love...
Hana-chan...
She has as wonderful an appetite as ever, don't she?
The cone is yummy, too! ♡
Yeti *Manjô*
GASP
HAAA
It's all for Hana-chan, dontcha know. I did whatever I could to rebuild this dying inn.
Special order yeti suit
Hello? Is this *Weekly Wednesday*?
Yeti softcream
Yeti Sightings MAP

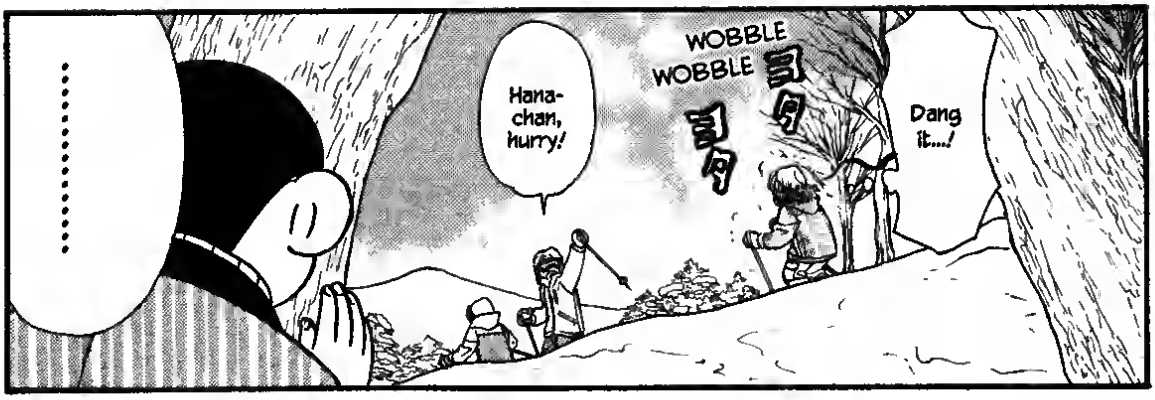
I will make you my bride, Hana-chan!!
I told you, you're eating too much!
I'm kinda cold.
CHILL
Hana-chan, you're over here, then. Sempais, could you use the next room?
HAA HAA
Thank you!
.....
That Dai-chan sure is a nice guy, huh?
What's wrong, Izumi?
...nothing, just...
Oh, they brought our stuff.
I forgot! Here, Hana-chan, I had this yukata picked out for you, dontcha know.
KNOCK KNOCK
GARA

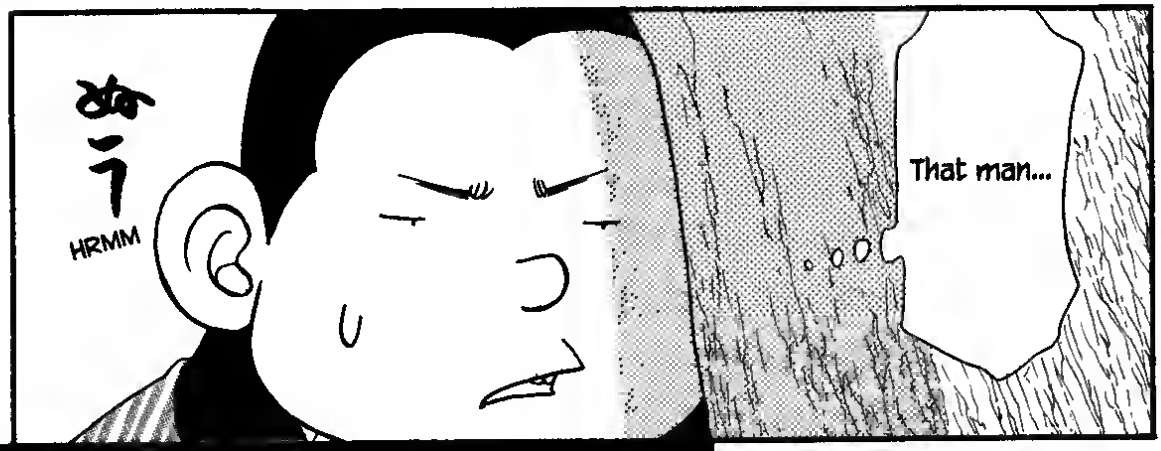
Hana!?
I-I'm sorry, I didn't mean to, eh...!
I know, I know. Don't worry about it.
You scared me~~
GARA
GARA
GARA
PISHAN
It's suspicious.
He did that on purpose, didn't he?
There's no way. Of all people, Dai-chan would never.
You've got him all wrong. He's just a simple country boy.

Eehh? But I can't see Dai-chan ever doing that kind of thing.
Hey, Hana.
Don't you think your attitude was way different than when it was me?
Well...
.....
What, are you saying you *can* see *me* do it!?
Sometimes...
You took baths with him!?
Eh heh heh. Grandpa's tub is so big~~
When we would take baths together, he would always save me from drowning when I fell asleep in the tub.
Please don't say so many mean things about Dai-chan. He saved my life.
SHOCK
Saved your life?

Dai-chan is totally naive. Don't put him on your level, Izumi-sempai.
We were little. Kids do that all the time.
Ugh. What are you thinking?
GR!
Poor guy.
Mm-hm, mm-hm
You can't be that different from when you were little.
NGH!
Figure-wise!
KEH
Mm...!
Izumi-sempai, look, binoculars!
We might see the abominable snowman.
Ah!

W-wait...!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
Yeah, let's do that.
Shall we go a little deeper into the mountains while the sun's still up?
Oh, it's just a human.
Aww.
THOFF
GLIDE
GRRRR!
Klutz.


.....
Hana-chan, hurry!
WOBBLE WOBBLE
Dang it...!


HRMM
That man...

DEAD...

Dai-chan...!
TEARS
うるっ
GLINT
Would you like to soak your feet, then?
I'm good at massage, dontcha know.
It must be tough, being in the ski club, eh?
No, it's the hockey club...
SNORE
WHEEZE
HUM
HUM
HUM
Are you okay there, Hana-chan?
Are your sempais still on the slope, then?
AAAAAHH...
Bliss!
I'm touching her feet...
DOKI DOKI
ちゃ
SPLISH
ぱしゃ
ん
Don't your hands get tired?
うと
DOZE
I'm fine, I'm fine.
...Thanks, Dai-chan.
うと
DOZE

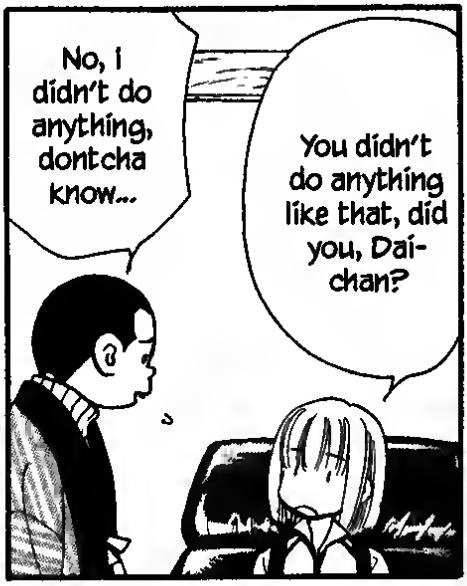
Hana-chan?
すう
zzzz
.....
SNOOOORE
...GULP
KYORO
KYORO
KYORO

La, la-la, la-laaa...
フンフンフーン
What are you doing?
What were you about to do to Hana?
I knew it! You....!
I have no idea what you're talking about there.
Ngh...
Eh?
Hey, Hana! He really did do it on purpose!
He was about to attack you in your sleep!
It's just like I said!!
Oh~~ Welcome back.
Did you see the abominable snowman?

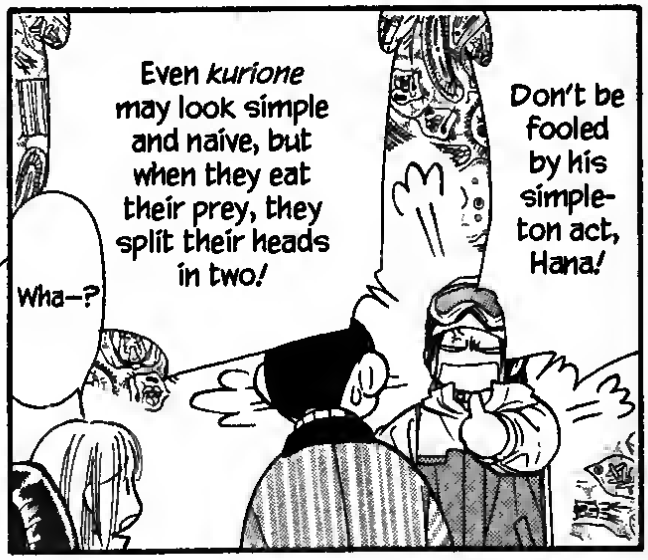
You're lying. There's no way Dai-chan would ever do anything like that.
I'm not lying! You all saw it, too, right!?
Well, if you tell me he was trying to kiss her, then, hmm...
But it didn't look like a very amorous scene.

Oh, no! You don't need to apologize.

But I didn't know I was doing anything that would be misunderstood.
I'm sorry, eh?

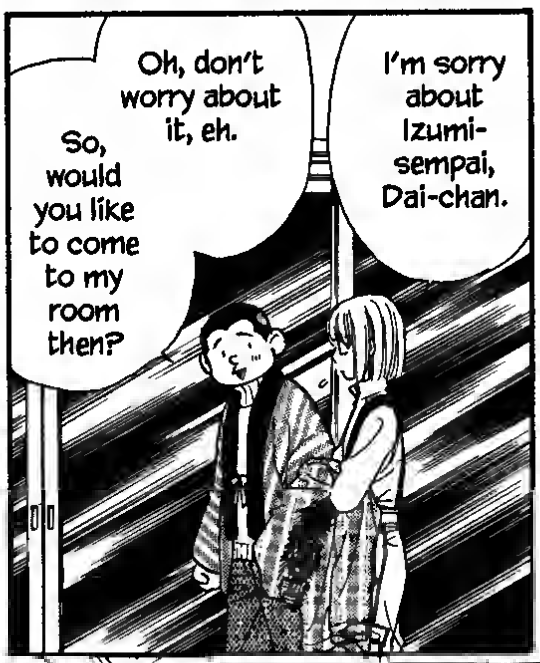

No, I didn't do anything, dontcha know...
You didn't do anything like that, did you, Dai-chan?

Hey, Hana!
IGNORE
IGNORE
Let's go, Dai-chan.
B-but...
That's enough. Please stop saying bad things about my friends.


Don't be fooled by his simple-ton act, Hana!
Even kurione may look simple and naive, but when they eat their prey, they split their heads in two!
Wha—?

LEER
Maybe we really were seeing things after all?
Yeah, he doesn't look like the type to do that kind of thing.
.....

Hmm...
It's been so long, we have so many things to catch up on, dontcha know, Hana-chan.


I'm sorry about Izumi-sempai, Dai-chan.
Oh, don't worry about it, eh.
So, would you like to come to my room then?

Oh my, my, my, my. Look at the time.
Haste makes waste.
Oh well. It's still the first day.

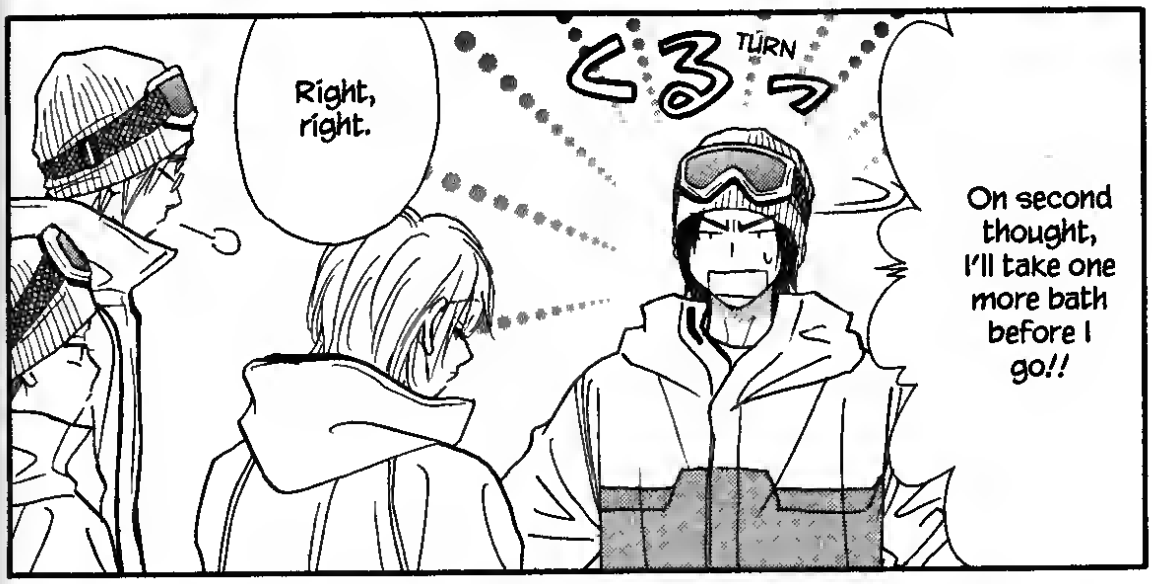
I'll pass.
I'm tired today, so I'm gonna eat dinner and go to bed.
B-but...
I'm sorry. See you tomor-row!
Tch.

I'll do my best again today~~
SNIGGER
SNIGGER
Well then, for the future of me and Hana-chan, it's off to work again then.
They say the abominable snowman showed up again yesterday!!
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHEE-CHEE-CHEEP
DAH
DAH
DAH
DAH
Izumi-sempai, Izumi-sempai!
Really!?
A guy who was in the open-air bath with us saw him around the mountain hut!
Then should we go check out that area today?

Will you be okay by yourself?
I'll be fine. Dai-chan's here.
Have fun.
TWITCH
Hana-chan, let's go!
I'll take care of things here...
Sore all over
Who cares anymore? I warned her over and over!
It takes all kinds.
Well, he wouldn't want to attack her, right?
Is this okay?
Well, she did seem to be in pain yesterday.
She's sore and in bed.
Huh? Where's Hana-chan, eh?
Good morning, there!

Squish
Yeah. When Hana-chan was sleeping in the field, her grandpa's tractor ran over her bottom, dontcha know.
So she's always slept anywhere.
T-tractor?
Come to think of it, before, when it would get cold, she would say that the scar she got from being run over by a tractor would hurt. I wonder if that's healed then?
I would have guessed they would be faded by now. Of course, eh?
When we went into the bath together I could still see the scars clearly.

If anything happens, I'll take good care of Hana-chan.
So don't worry about her, then. You go and have fun, eh?


くるっ
TURN
Right, right.
On second thought, I'll take one more bath before I go!!

I'm going to the open-air bath, too.
We'll join you later.

Huh? She's gone.
I wonder if Hana-chan went to take a bath or something.

Aaaaahh! I'm alive again~~

Huh?
MEN
BEING CLEANED

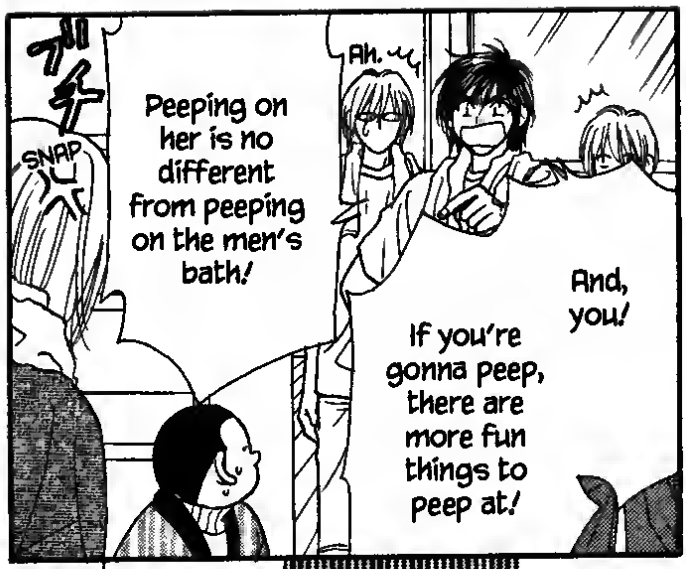
Excuse me. When will you be done clean—
GARA

What's the matter?
Oh, it's being cleaned.
That's weird. We should be able to go in at this time of day.
I'll go ask about it.

Huh?
That voice...
Izumi-sempai?
...wh-

That's right. Dai-chan wouldn't peep.
I-it's not what you think, eh?
The fence was broken. I was fixing it.
With his face like that! How dare he!
I *told* you to watch out for him!
ERGH!
What do you mean by that?
I thought I told you to stop saying bad things about Dai-chan!
Give me a break! You're *still* saying that?
And it's because you're so careless that this guy thinks he can get away with it!
Why you—! What are you doing!!?

Now, now, you two.
What!?
No!
Shut up! Can't you trust me!?


SNAP
Peeping on her is no different from peeping on the men's bath!
Ah.
And, you!
If you're gonna peep, there are more fun things to peep at!

Hana-chan, Izumi is worried about you.
Keh.
Like hell.

Well excuse me for not being fun to peep at!
He's just like his dad!
I-Izumi!
I'm going for a walk!
SPIT!

Ways to say things...
I guess he really is worried about me, kind of.
On a very childish level, but...
Man, he pisses me off!
BOFF
Even if he is worried, there are better ways to say things!
Ugh, what's with him! Always, always bringing up people's insecurities!
BOFF
BOFF
Huh?
Where is this place?
I walked where there weren't any people and ended up in the mountains.
Hana-chan!
Dai-chan.
Whew.
You walk fast on snow.
You're not still sore then?
Oh...
I was so mad I forgot.
Oh.

We can't!
It's started snowing.
We have to go back.
No, it's not.
I'm sorry. It's my fault, eh?
You city people don't understand how frightening snow can be!
Eh? But we're not that far from the inn...
There's a mountain hut nearby. We'll take shelter there, eh?
We don't know when it'll turn into a blizzard, so it's best to stay here!
Y-yes...

ヒュウウウ
WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH
B-BMP
B-BMP
Huh? It won't open.
Then we don't have any oil, eh?
Go! Go!
What will we do? It's turning into a blizzard.
It's not letting up, is it?
Nope.
I sure hope we can go home today, eh?
ドキドキ
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
I wonder if everyone's worried.
If I'd known this would happen, I would have stayed in my room and slept instead of running out here...

Huh?
Hana-chan. I have a good idea, eh?
Are you cold there?
SHIVER
Yeah, a little...
Wha—?
In times like this, it's best to warm each other up with our *bare skin!*
Uh, um, hey.
Hana-chan, this is no time to be bashful, dontcha know.
Everyone does it on TV and in books.
If everyone does it, it must be the right way to go then, eh?

Why are you sweating so much?
Two...
Oh, no.
He did it on purpose!
Dai-chan?
You look like you're hot...
Come on, there. I'll take my clothes off, too, so on the count of three then!
What Izumi-sempai said might have been right...
One...
WHAM
No!
Hana!
Ugh, that Dai-chan! He looks the same as when we were in elementary school, and yet...
I've been tricked...!
That was scary...!
Hana-chan!
EEEEEEP!

Izumi-
sempai...!
Waaaahhh!

GASP
You okay, Hana!?
I-I'm sorry...
Good thing there's so much snow...
THOFF!
You stupid—!
You're not hurt anywhere?
N-no.
Really?
I'm okay...
ほっ
WHEW
Good...!

Man, you scared me!
I hear faint voices.
Good, sounds like she's okay, eh?
Izumi-sempai...
If this keeps up, he'll take all my fun.
And we finally had a romantic atmo-sphere~~
I have to restore my likability somehow then...
Raaarr!
ZZZZZZIP
Threaten
Pathetic
That was close, eh?
GLINT
Gasp!
You saved me! I love you!
Rescue
Heh heh heh. With this tourist bait special order abominable snowman suit, Hana-chan's heart will be mine again, dontcha know!

...Izumi-sempai, I'm sleepy.
Put up with it.
The blizzard's started to let up, and he knows where we are, so he'll probably call for help.
Um... I'm sorry.
About what?
Well, um, everything...
More important, he didn't do anything to you, did—
It's okay.
THONK

ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZZZZZZ
Hana?
Hey, Hana! Come back!
I'm telling you, wake up, you *idiot!*
Think about the time and place!!
H-Hey! How can you sleep at a time like this!?
Open your eyes! If you fall asleep, you'll die!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
Oh yeah! At times like this, *that's* what you do!
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
GASP
Wh-what'll I do? At this rate, she really will—

With your bare skin!
This area is bigger in his brain.
N-no, but if I did that without asking her...
Hana would live, but then she'd kill me!
ZZZ
ZZZ
Well, this is an emergency.
Don't get mad, Hana.
B-BMP
B-BMP

LOOOOM
GYAAAAAAAAH!

Be. Quiet.
WHAM
J-just now, the abominable snowman...!!
POP
Are you okay!?
Izumi! Hana-chan!
Ah! There they are!

Huh?
Wh-wha—?
POFF
Aaaah! We're saved!
I'm starv-ing!
POFF
Right? He was here, right? The abominable snowman! You saw him, didn't you, Hana?
Eeehhh? I dunno.
I don't know!
I mean, you beat him up!!
GAHAH
I thought she was going to kill me there...!
I saw him...!!
I wonder what's for dinner.
Awesome! You're so lucky, Izumi-sempai!
Uwah! It's true! This is shaped like a yeti!
For some reason, Dai-chan wouldn't look me in the eyes once before we left.
EEEEEK!
HIDE
Hey, Hana. Should we get yeti manjû after all?
?
It seems the abominable snowman hasn't been seen since then.

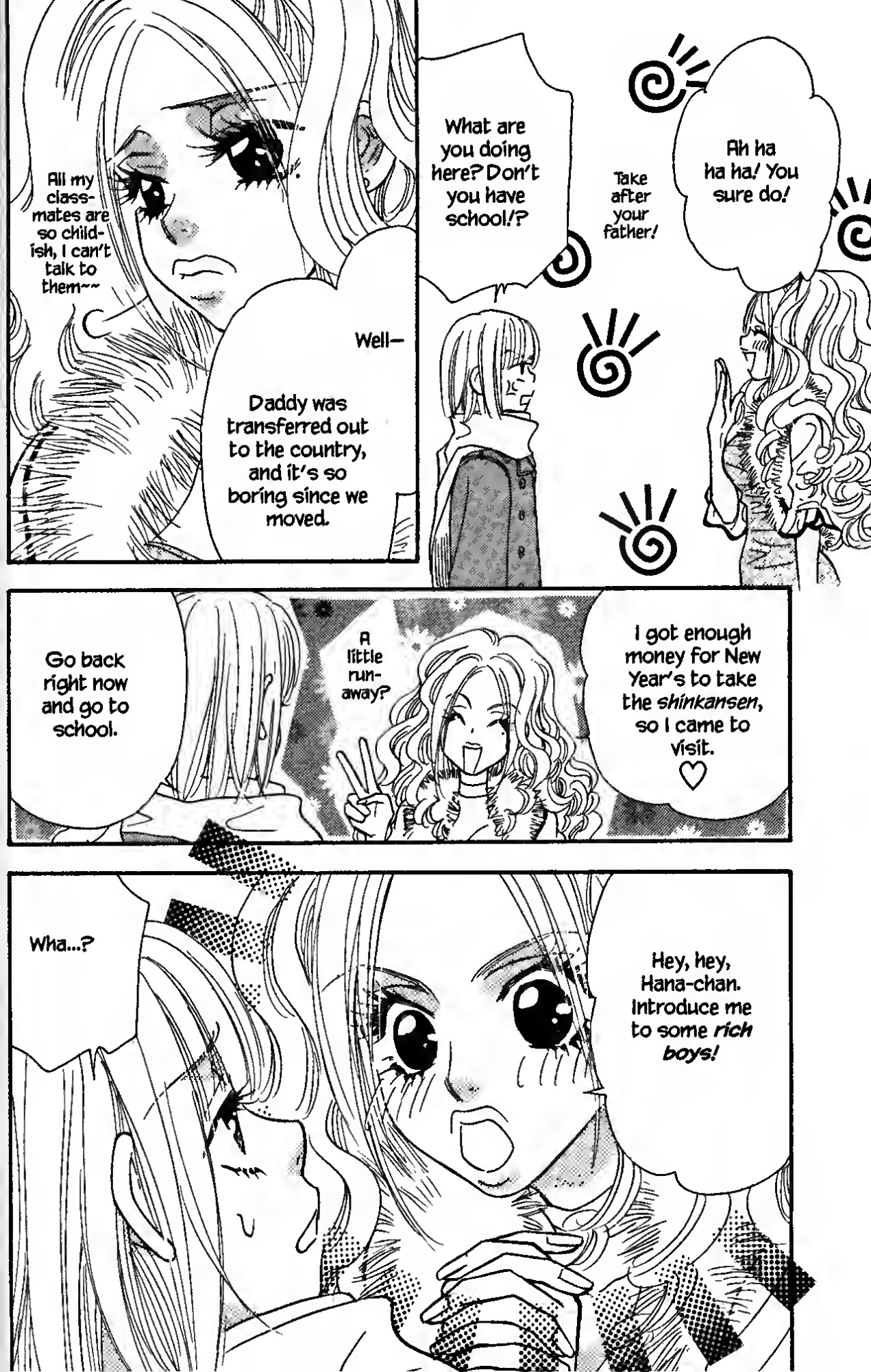
The End

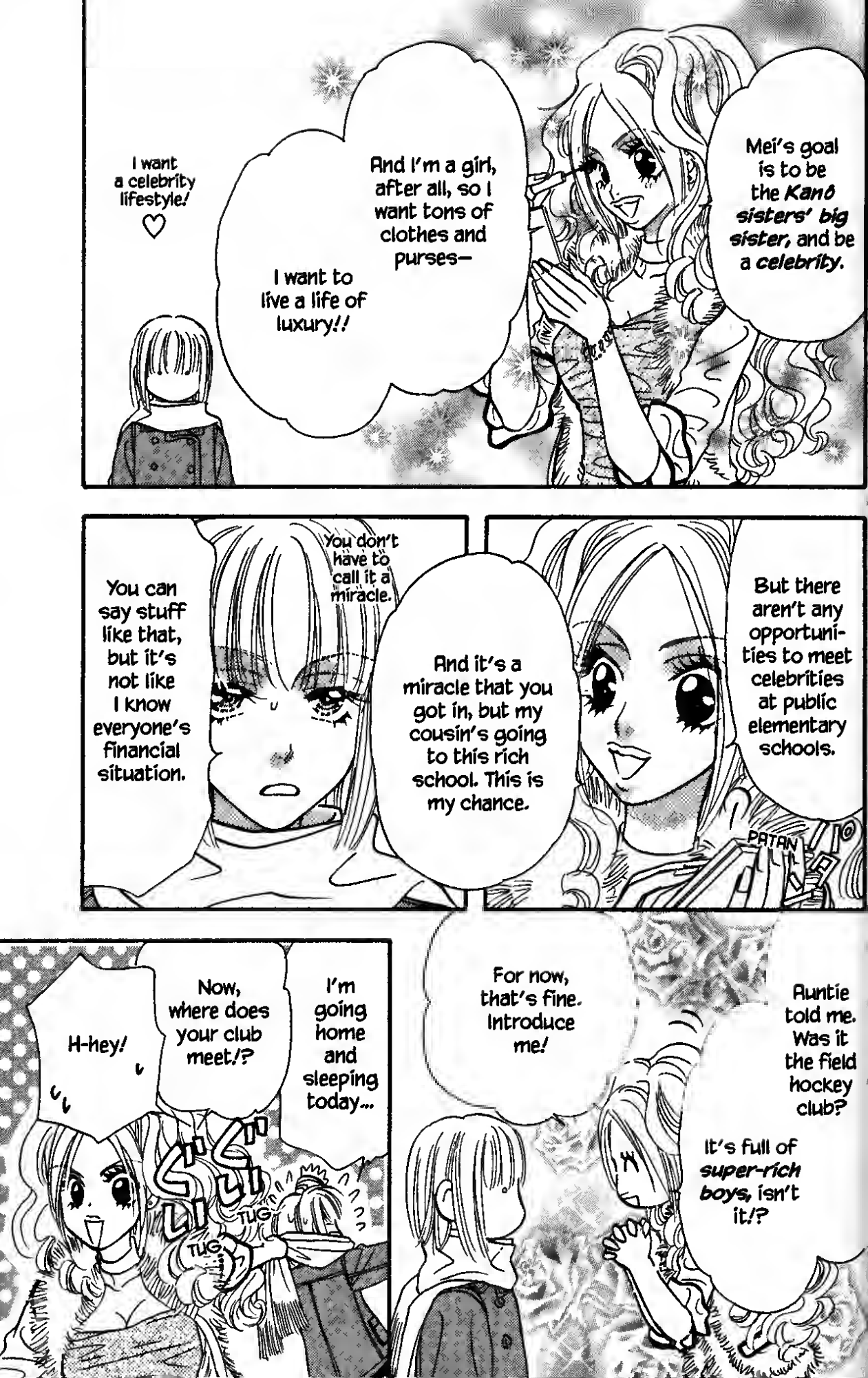
Chapter 18: Beware of Lolita!?

Yawn.
I'm tired from the P.E. marathon, so I'm going home to sleep~~
Huh? Hana, aren't you going to club?
Hana-chan!
The weather is nice today, so I wonder if Mom aired out my futon~~
Anyway, I'll sleep until dinner!
I have to hurry home before Izumi-sempai finds me.

I'm so glad I found you! ♡
BAM
Auntie said you had club, so you would still be at school.
Oohh, Hana-chan. These days, you have to have a cell phone.
OOOHHH...
Um...and who are you?
Her shoulders must be so stiff...
Oh, come on, Hana-chan. You're too young to be forgetting like that.
It's Mei. Mei! Your cousin!

Long time no see~~ Has it been two years?
Eeeehhh? Mei-chan!?
Eh?
Yup! Now I'm in fifth grade!
Wh-when I met you two years ago, you were in third grade, weren't you...?
You haven't changed at all, Hana-chan.
I'm a growing girl.
I-I take after my father...
Elementary school kids these days...
Y–
you've changed.


All my classmates are so childish, I can't talk to them~~
Well—
Daddy was transferred out to the country, and it's so boring since we moved.
What are you doing here? Don't you have school!?
Take after your father!
Ah ha ha ha! You sure do!
Go back right now and go to school.
A little runaway?
I got enough money for New Year's to take the *shinkansen*, so I came to visit. ♡
Wha...?
Hey, hey, Hana-chan. Introduce me to some *rich boys!*


Mei's goal is to be the Kanô sisters' big sister, and be a celebrity.
And I'm a girl, after all, so I want tons of clothes and purses—
I want to live a life of luxury!!
I want a celebrity lifestyle! ♡
But there aren't any opportunities to meet celebrities at public elementary schools.
PATAN
And it's a miracle that you got in, but my cousin's going to this rich school. This is my chance.
You don't have to call it a miracle.
You can say stuff like that, but it's not like I know everyone's financial situation.
Auntie told me. Was it the field hockey club?
It's full of super-rich boys, isn't it!?
For now, that's fine. Introduce me!
I'm going home and sleeping today...
Now, where does your club meet!?
H-hey!
TUG
TUG

POFF
She grew from a chick in no time.
Rrrg.
BASSA
You're heavy!
BASSA
Oww!
Wacky! I thought I told you, you can't sit on my head anymore!
She sure has gotten big.
You're late, Hana.
Good afternoon!
GACHA
KNOCK KNOCK
I wonder if she'll lay eggs yet—
BOCK BOCK BOCK
BRAWK
Apparently they start at about four months, so it'll be a little while.

Kyaaaaaaaahhh♡
Bed...
START
Hey, Hana-chan, they're great! Too great!!
Mei will do her best!!
Help me out, okay?
Yeah...
I'll hope for good snacks.
!?
Hey, Hana?
Um, this is my cousin Mei-chan.
She came to visit.
Pleased to meet you. I'm Mei Suzuki. ♡

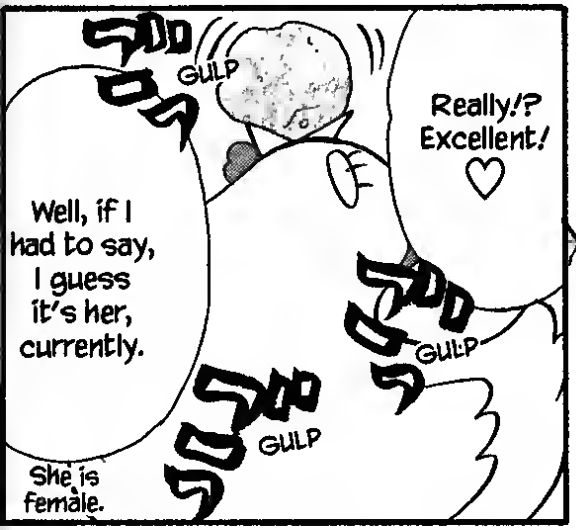
Eeeeehh!?
Cousin!?
No way!
How!?
Hana-chan's!?
Are you really related by blood?
Where are you looking when you say that!?
I don't wanna hear that from you, Izumi-sempai!
Father
This is kind of annoying.
You don't have to be *that* surprised.
And being an elementary schooler, *she's* the special case.
I'm normal!
Eh!?

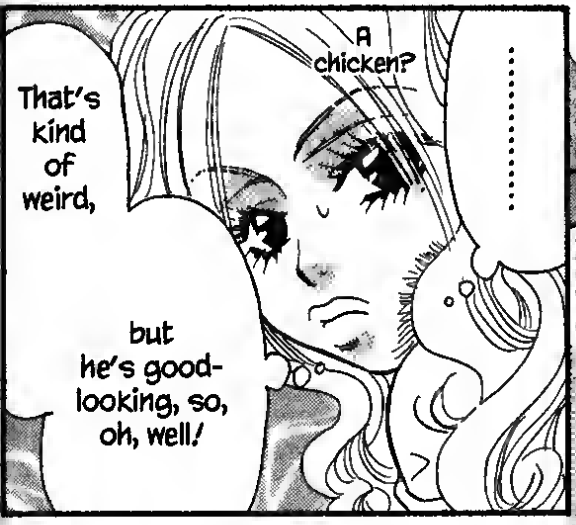
Eehh? They would have figured it out soon enough anyway.
If they know I'm in elementary school, they won't see me as a romantic prospect!
You're mean, Hana-chan! You didn't have to tell them!
Elementary schooler...!?
Then she still goes to school wearing a backpack?
Eleven years old?
She's growing *too* well.
Incredible. Elementary schoolers these days.
What are the snacks for today!?
Is black tea all right?
Why don't you both have a seat?
I was just about to make some tea.
MM!
That really is incred-ible.
Imagining
.....

SOFT
Sponge cake made with *ukokkei* eggs.
We tried lightly adding some fresh whipped cream.
Here you are.
Uwaah...!
I knew it. Even celebrity snacks are different.
Ukokkei— they're the ones with the eggs that Grandma would pickle so carefully.
This *is* what I want!
Now I'm motivated!!
This tastes so good!!
Aww, the portions are smaller...

Let's see...
Hmmm, he's got a nice face, but he doesn't seem any different from the elementary school boys.
I'll buy you some more, so stop talking like such a pauper.
He's out.
Have another cup of tea.
I can't tell them apart, so no.
Mmmm.

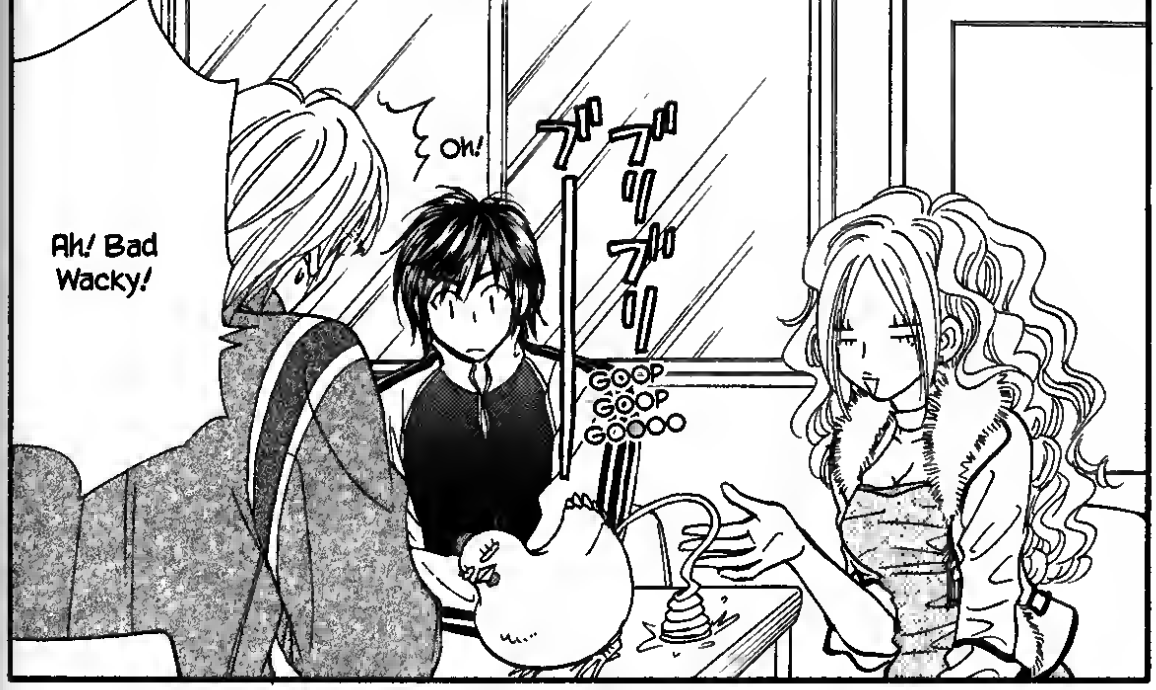
Do you like it? I see.
I dunno... I don't think he does though.
Hey, hey. Itoigawa-san, was it?
Does he have a girlfriend?


GULP
Well, if I had to say, I guess it's her, currently.
Really!? Excellent!
GULP
GULP
GULP
She is female.


A chicken?
That's kind of weird,
but he's good-looking, so, oh, well!

Would you like some, Wacky?
It would be rather cannibalistic, though.
Maybe this one.
All right, I've decided...!
BAKAWK
コケ

Mei always gets her man.
Now, here I go!
Aim for a celebrity marriage!
A chicken isn't much of an adversary.
So you're raising a chicken?
BAM
Come here, Wacky. ♡
It's okay. Animals love Mei.
Wacky. Be careful. She's shy.
She's so cute! What's her name?
Yeah, well.
That's how it turned out.


Ah! Bad Wacky!
Oh!
GOOP GOOP GOOOO

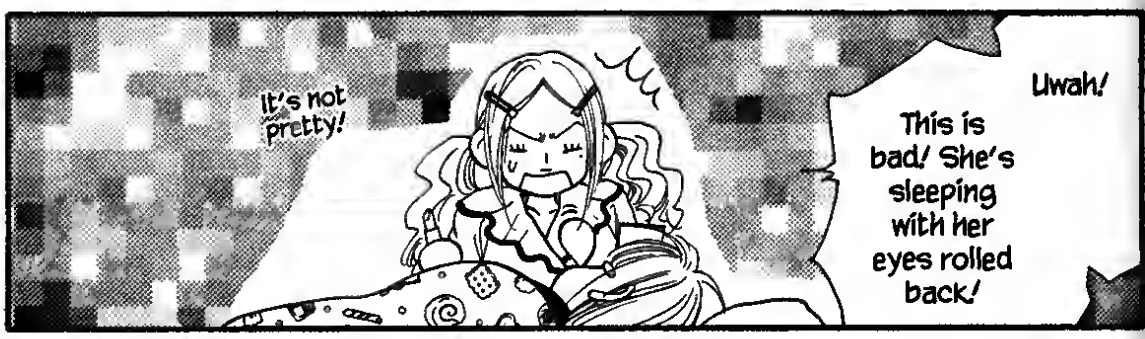
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
BOCK BOCK BOCK
BAKAWK
How many times have I told you—not on the desk!
What's wrong with you all of a sudden?

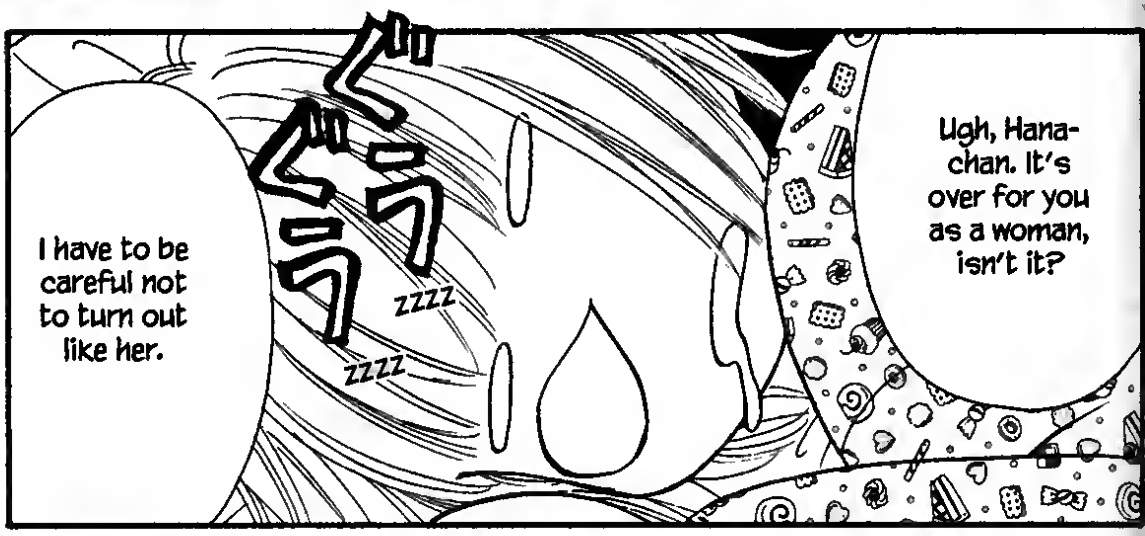
Ewww! I think it got on my legs.
Hey, hey, there isn't any here, is there?

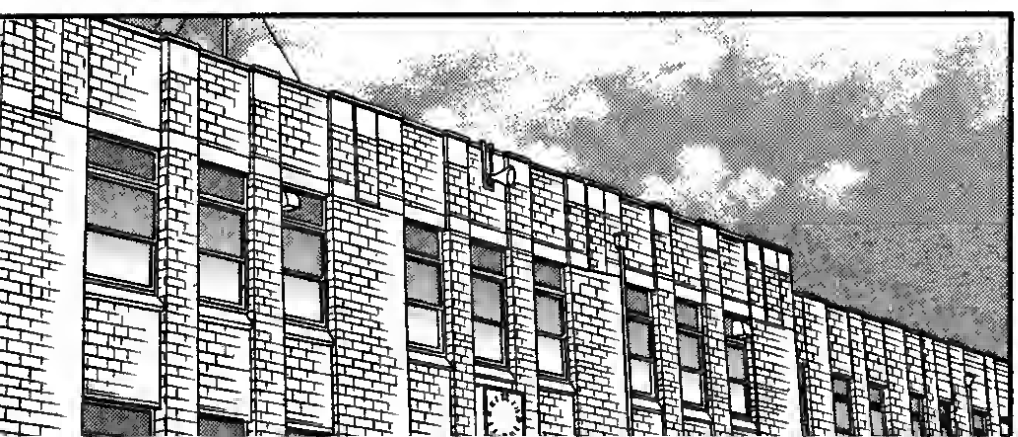
Sorry about that. Here, wipe it off.
MUNCH MUNCH
That's all?
Oh, you'd better wash your hands, too.
The sink's that way.
.....
She's easy to read, isn't she?
She says she's aiming to marry into a rich, celebrity family.
Hmmm.
There, all clean.

FWAM
Bff!
WHAM
Ah!
Oooohh, I tripped!
BELCH
This is getting kind of interesting...
Ah.
DOZE
DOZE
All right!
I see!
Then I just have to work hard enough for them to forget I'm in elementary school!!
Hana-chan, Mei thinks that she's pretty sexy, but...
Ooohhh, well, you're in elementary school, you know? You're outside their target range.
Suzuki Tofu

SNOOORE
Hana-chan?
Hana-chan, are you listening?
Hey, do you think this color is better on my lips?


It's not pretty!
Uwah!
This is bad! She's sleeping with her eyes rolled back!


I have to be careful not to turn out like her.
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
Ugh, Hana-chan. It's over for you as a woman, isn't it?



Itoigawa-saaaan!
BAAAAAM

Tee hee hee! I came again today. ♡
Are you going to club now?
Can Mei go with you?
GYUUUUUU

Sit down over there.
What is it?
Eh?
Mei Suzuki.
Of course he is. I'm working so hard to put up with the cold.
Here it comes. ♡
Goose bumps
.....
Yes! Today he's reacting.
I said sit.
?
Yes, sir.
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
How can you wear those clothes!?
An elementary school girl should not be prancing around in front of people dressed like that! Change your clothes!
Whah? These days it's okay!

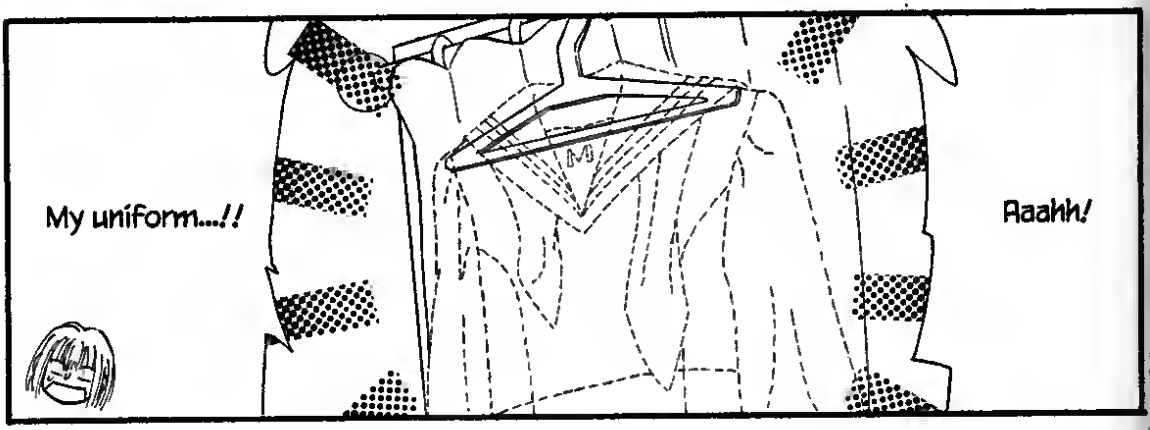
No! Don't you have something else to say to me?
It's not fine. Children may like to play in the cold, but there's a limit.
So just change your clothes!
PRIDE
Why is he talking about diarrhea!!?
That's not what I meant.
If you get too cold, you'll get diarrhea.
WHIP
Suzuki.
What are you two doing?

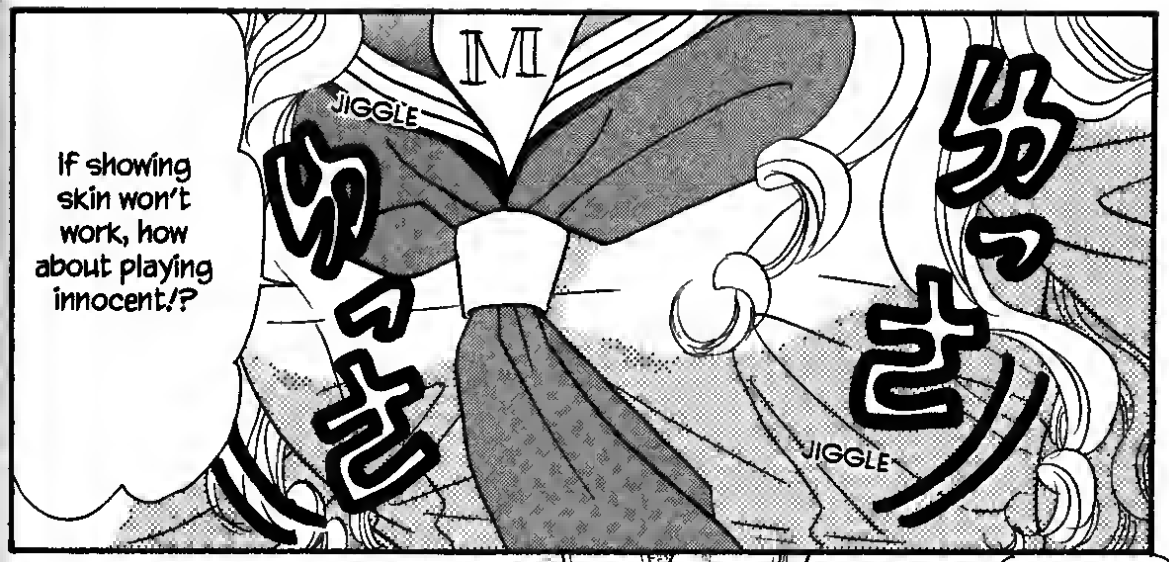
Mei-chan, you sure are brave. That's an elementary schooler for you.
I get cold just looking at you.
Eehh? Well, it was cold.
It's like a mobile suit...
What on earth are you wearing?
Don't praise her! You're her cousin! Raise her right!
I would appreciate it if you would make a habit of hiding those things.
Learn from Suzuki. She doesn't have anything to hide, and she's hiding it anyway!!
Hey, what's that supposed to mean?
What? I'm complimenting you.
Excuse me for not having anything!!
GRAR
RAR
RAR

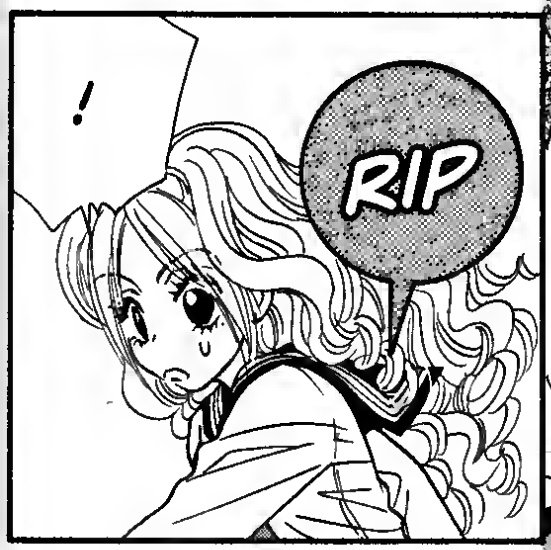
What is this? Hana-chan, Hana-chan, Hana-chan!
Hana-chan *has no sex appeal and has abandoned her Femininity!* Why should Mei have to learn from *her*!?
Umm, Mei-chan, I haven't really abandoned it yet...
Are you saying Mei is worse than Hana-chan!?
GRRRRRR
Even Suzuki is better than an overly self-absorbed child.
Ah.

I'll take him down by force if I have to...!!
KAH
Why that...!

CHEE-CHEE-CHEEP
Suzuki Tofu
CHIRP
CHIRP


My uniform...!!
Raahh!

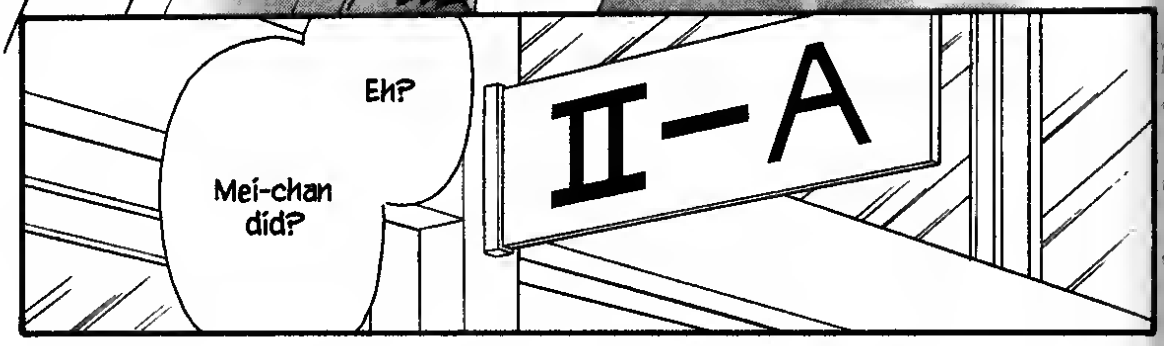

If showing skin won't work, how about playing innocent!?
JIGGLE
JIGGLE

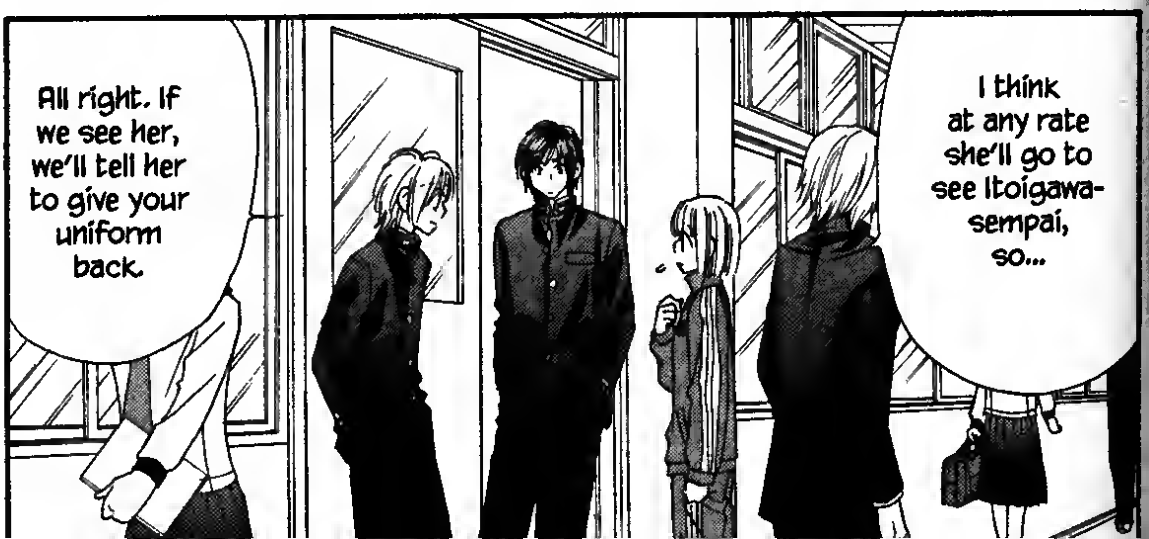

!
RIP

Hana-chan's uniform is too small...
ACHOO
Oooh, man!
In the chest!

Seriously. He's really a second-year in high school!?
He acts like an old man!
In that case, I will make him say he loves me!

Good morning! ♡
Itoi-gawa.
Ah! There he is!
SNIFFLE
This time!


Eh?
Mei-chan did?
II-A

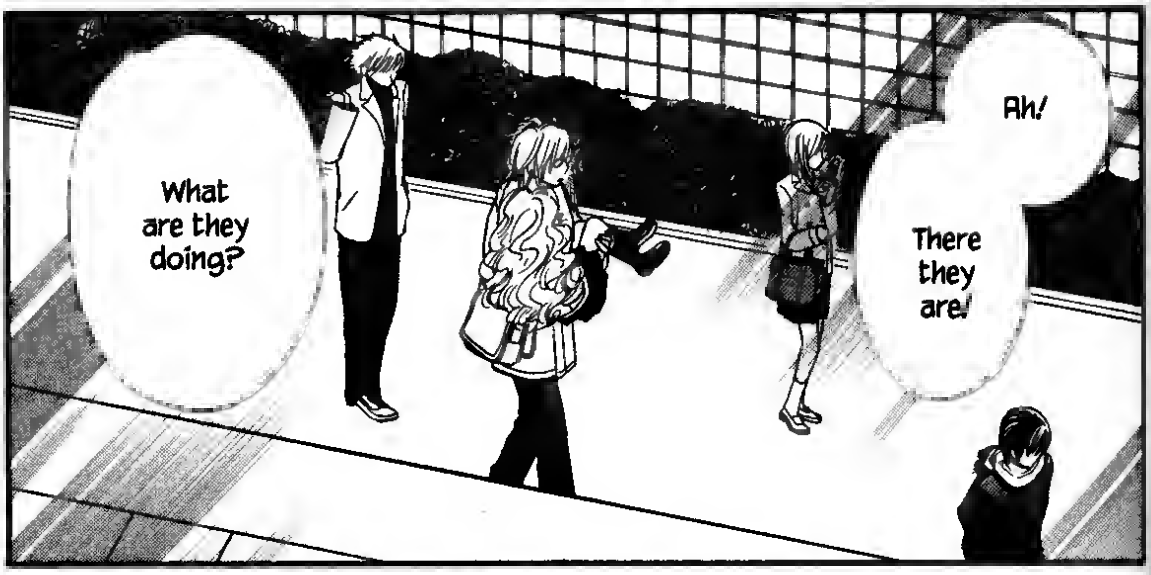

All right. If we see her, we'll tell her to give your uniform back.
I think at any rate she'll go to see Itoigawa-sempai, so...

It shouldn't hurt her *that* bad. I'm five whole years older than she is.
It must have been quite a shock. Having Takashi tell her she's less than Hana.
But Mei-chan sure has guts.
No, no reason.
Why aren't you saying anything?
?
.....
That's not funny.
True, true.
But she'd look more like an image club girl than a high school girl.

I thought I told you to stop dressing like that!!!
Just a...
Stop it! What are you doing!?
MURMUR
An unmarried girl shouldn't walk around like that. It'll do a world of damage and not a bit of good.
I said no! Stop it, you pervert!
Quiet! Hold still!
MURMUR

There. That's better.
You should listen to your elders.
How humiliating!!
That uniform is Suzuki's, isn't it?
She'll be needing it. Give it back to her.
...hic
Where did he get the *haramaki* and wool underwear?
It hurts...
What's wrong?
My stomach hurts.
That's why I told you not to stay out in the cold. Are you okay?
I'm not okay. Take me to the nurse's office.

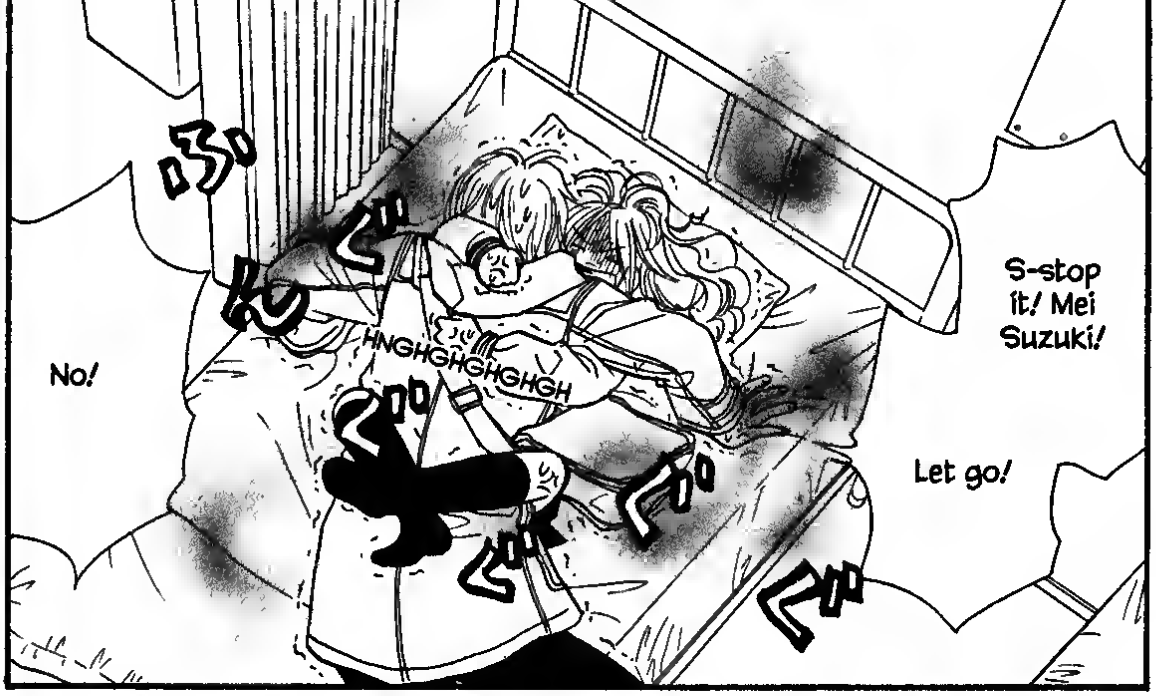
He fell for it!
Ugh, you're hopeless.


What are they doing?
Ah!
There they are!

Nurse's Office

What's this? The nurse isn't in yet?
Wait here. I'll go look for her.
It's okay. I'll get better if I get some sleep.
Instead, stay with me?

Mei feels better with Itoigawa-san here.
Please?
.....
No, I can't do anything if something happens. I'll go get someone.
!?
GASHI
No! Don't go!


S-stop it! Mei Suzuki!
No!
HNGHGHGHGHGH
Let go!

Well, I wanted to be alone with you!
You tricked me.

Do you hate Mei, Itoigawa-san...?
.....

Let's keep the beds neat
ROLL
Kyaaa!
PULL
Eh!?
J-just a, um...
CREAK
!?
No way!
It's too sudden!
No!
Wait...!

Kyaaaaaaaah!
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
Be quiet! You're an elementary school girl.
Meanie! How dare you do this to a girl!
WHAP
Quiet. When children are bad, it's best to do this.
I'm not a child!
Ow!
That hurts!
Ow!
WHAP
WHAP

If you're a girl, then take better care of yourself!
Any boy...
would do whatever I want if I just smiled at him.
BLAH
If you paint your face like that while you're young, you'll hurt your skin.
so be a kid while you're a kid!
BLAH
You'll have to use makeup whether you like it or not soon enough,
BLAH

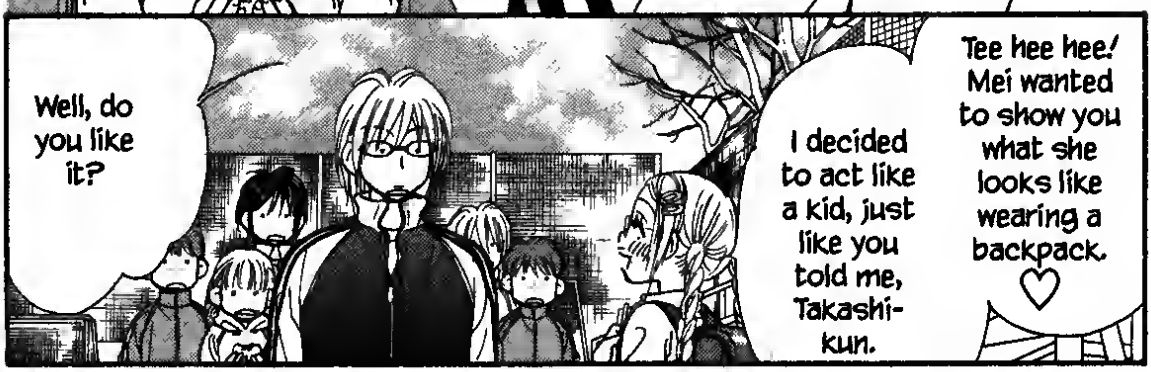
BLAH
It's a student's duty to study, so go home and start studying.
BLAH
Somehow, even his lecturing is music to my ears.
BLAH
Getting away with being stupid just because you're cute only works when you're young.
BLAH
BLAH
But this is the first time a boy has gotten seriously mad at me.
BLAH
You can keep the *haramaki* and wool underwear, so stay warm!
If you get too cold, you'll get hemorrhoids.
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
Don't your parents have anything to say about that?
And how long are you planning on ditching school, anyway?
BLAH
BLAH

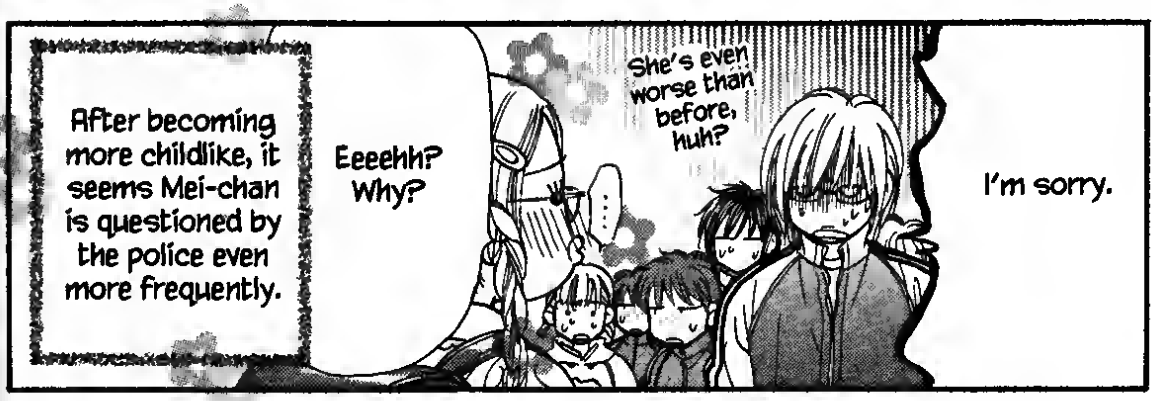
What's wrong with me? My head's all fuzzy.
Mei Suzuki?
Hey, are you listening?
I'm listening...
STAGGER
Mei Suzuki!?
You have a fever.
I told you over and over again not to show your stomach.
My chest...
I can't breathe...
Hana-chan's uniform is too tight.
Eh?
Undo the fasteners...
Fasteners?
All right, hold on.

GARA
Mei-chan, what's wrong? Are you okay!?
EH?
Itoigawa-sempai...?
I...

But that sure was a shock.
First it was bestiality, now it's pedophilia.
I don't have a thing for animals, either!
But does that count as pedophilia?
So Mei-chan went home?
Yeah. And apparently she's going to elementary school like she should, too.
Wow, that's great.
MUNCH
She was pretty cute when we didn't think of her as being in elementary school.
But it's kind of a shame, isn't it?
You're lucky, Itoigawa-sempai.
In another five years...
Yeah, well.
It's my natural virtue.
Aaahh! There you are!

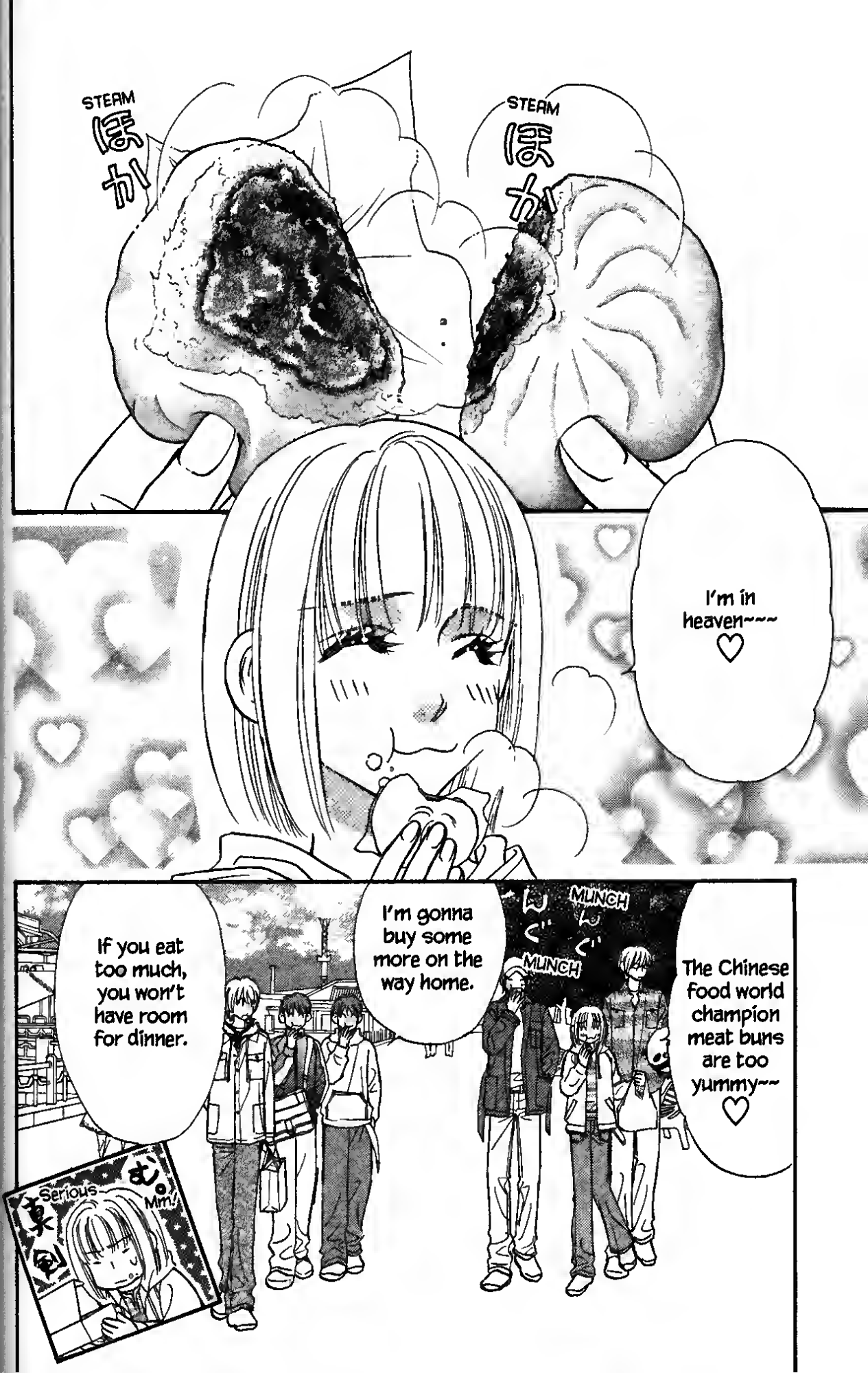
Takashi-kuuuun!


Tee hee hee! Mei wanted to show you what she looks like wearing a backpack. ♡
I decided to act like a kid, just like you told me, Takashi-kun.
Well, do you like it?


I'm sorry.
She's even worse than before, huh?
Eeeehh? Why?
After becoming more childlike, it seems Mei-chan is questioned by the police even more frequently.

The End

Chapter 19: Clash! Father-Son Hockey Falcons


STEAM
ほか
STEAM
ほか
I'm in heaven~~~
♡
MUNCH
MUNCH
The Chinese food world champion meat buns are too yummy~~
♡
I'm gonna buy some more on the way home.
If you eat too much, you won't have room for dinner.
Serious
む。
Mm.
菓

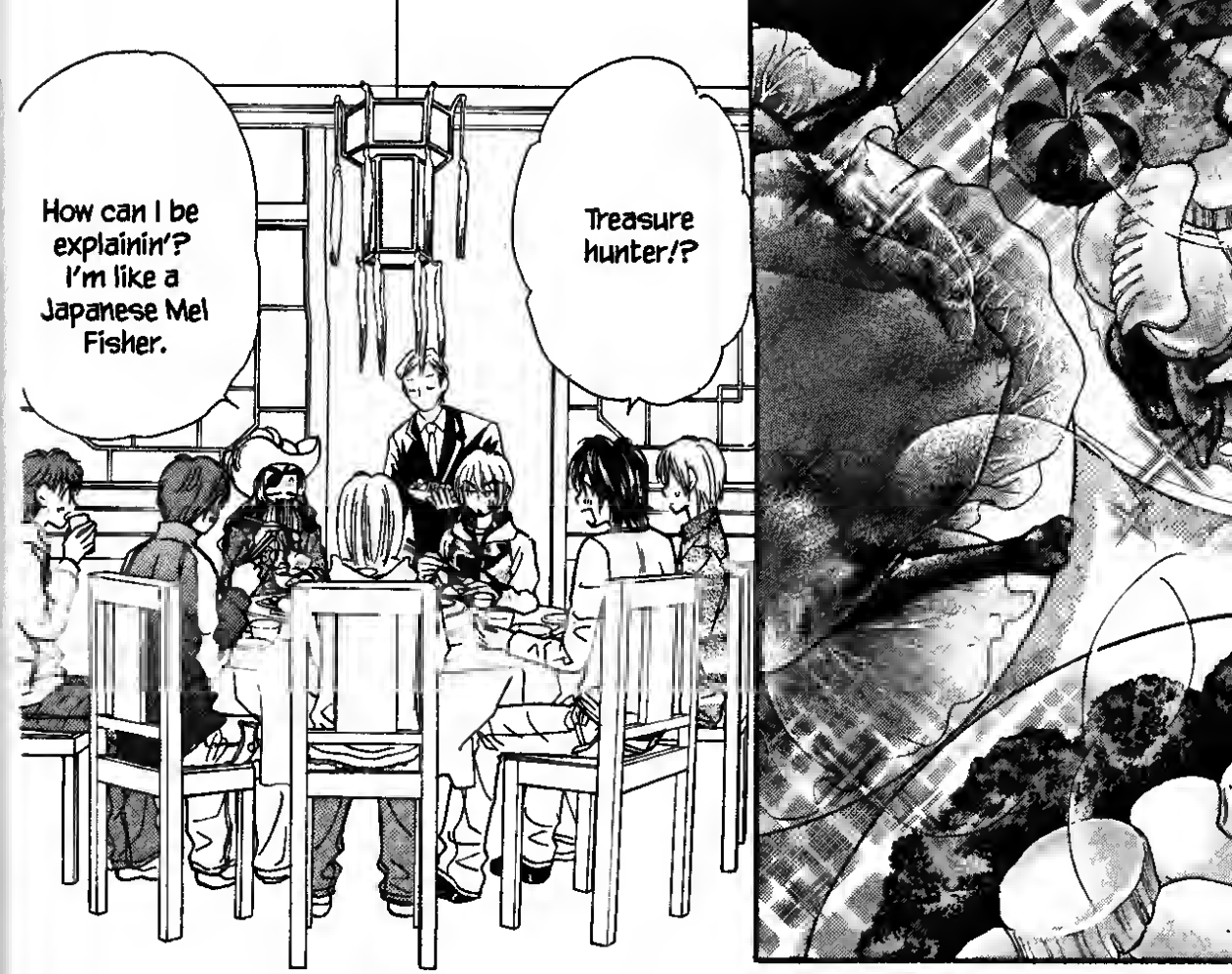
But sometimes it's nice to go around Chinatown, eating as we go.
Aaaahhh!
YOINK
ひょい
Meanie! That was the last one!
You've gained weight recently.
I'm eating it for you.
But you were acting all dejected about your body fat going up, too, Izumi-sempai!
.....
Aaaahh! You really ate it!!
Shut up. First come, first served.
LICK GULP
べろーん
ぺろん
STOP
ぴた
ぴ
?
Izumi? Hana-chan?

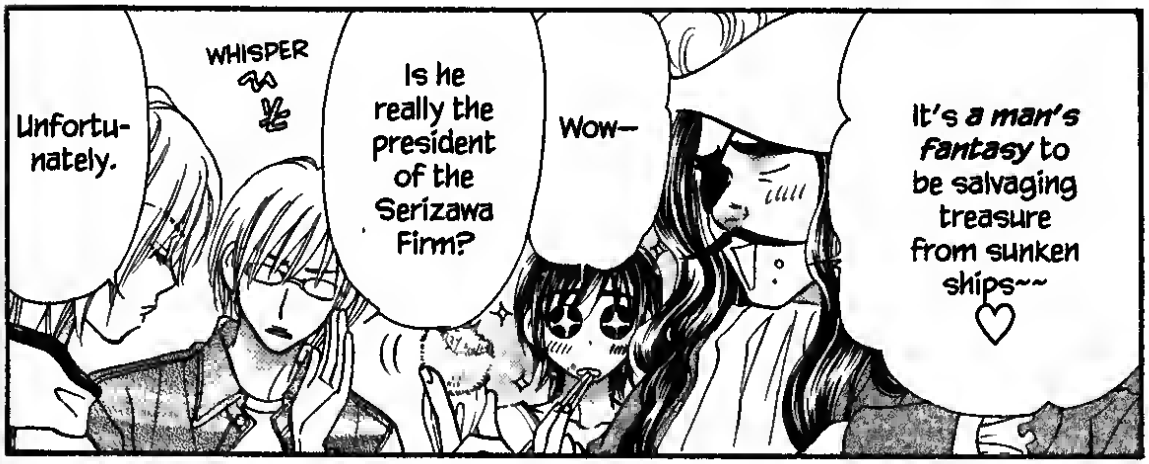
What's wrong?
Natsuki! I've come to get ye!
ZAZAZAZAZAH

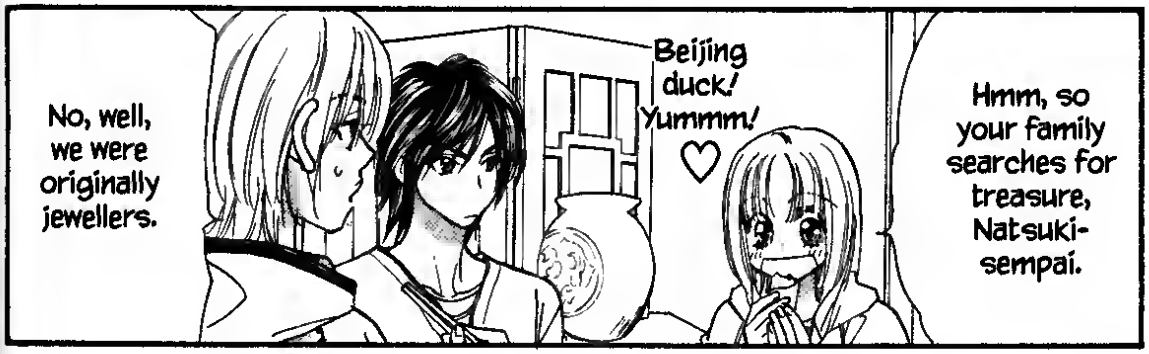
Natsukiiiiii!!!
A friend of yours?
Who knows? All sorts come out when it gets warm.
But he said your name...
Come on, let's go.
LASSO!

You're still soft, Natsuki.
Don't be thinking you can get away from yer father!
Natsuki-sempai!
WAAAAAAAAAA HA HA HA HA
Fa-
Father!!?

Ugh.
Why you...
Argh?
SPIN
DAAAAHH
Oh!
Awa wa wa wa!
Whoa!
Aahh! Cap'n!
Hmph.
Cap-tain!
Cap-tain!
SPLASH


How can I be explainin'? I'm like a Japanese Mel Fisher.
Treasure hunter!?


Unfortu-nately.
WHISPER
Is he really the president of the Serizawa Firm?
Wow—
It's *a man's fantasy* to be salvaging treasure from sunken ships~~


No, well, we were originally jewellers.
Beijing duck! Yummm!
Hmm, so your family searches for treasure, Natsuki-sempai.

Hana-chan have you heard of the brand Inne?
They do watches and jewelry and stuff.
I'be 'eard o' it.
A friend of mine was bragging about the diamond earrings her parents bought for her birthday.
They own that brand.
They have a store in the shopping mall at our hotel.
Hmmm.
He said "our" hotel.
I'll pretend I didn't hear that.
So it wasn't a foreign brand.
The name of your great-grandmother, was it?
Yeah, that's right.
Inne Serizawa.
Doesn't get it.
Ugh. What do you mean "treasure hunter"?
It was, practically nothing.
The one time you actually got anything was more than ten years ago.
Why don't you give it up, stop leaving Mom to do everything in the company, and come back and work?
You're right~~

BAM
And so, Natsuki, you will be coming with me!
Haruko-chan --> Wife
Of course you are.
Haruko-chan?
If I don't find something soon, I'm in trouble.
Haruko-chan's been on me case recently, telling me to give it up and come back.
SIGH

Wha...?

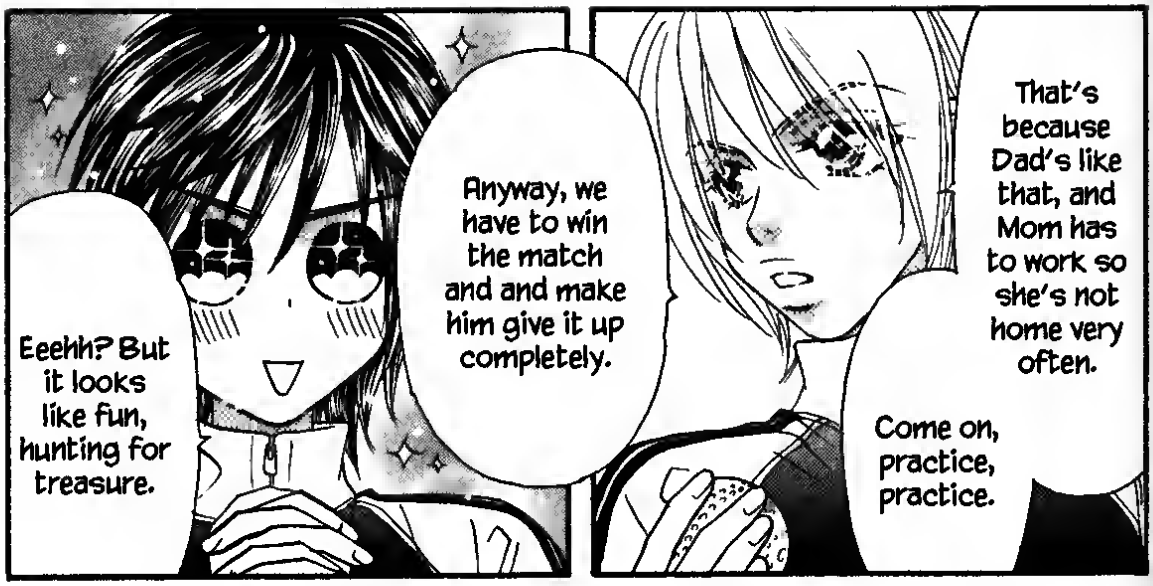
I have a feeling that if you're with me, I can salvage some treasure.
I'm a *guy*.
Thinking about it, Natsuki, you are my *goddess of fortune*.
I've found nothing since you abandoned ship eleven years ago.

Why would you ask me why not?
What about school?
Why not?
No.
What's more important? School or your father!?
Well, that being the case, thanks for the meal.
School.
Let's go, everyone.
W-wait, Natsuki!
Ah, Mom? He's here now.
If ye're this cold to me, I will go to your parent-teacher conference dressed like this.

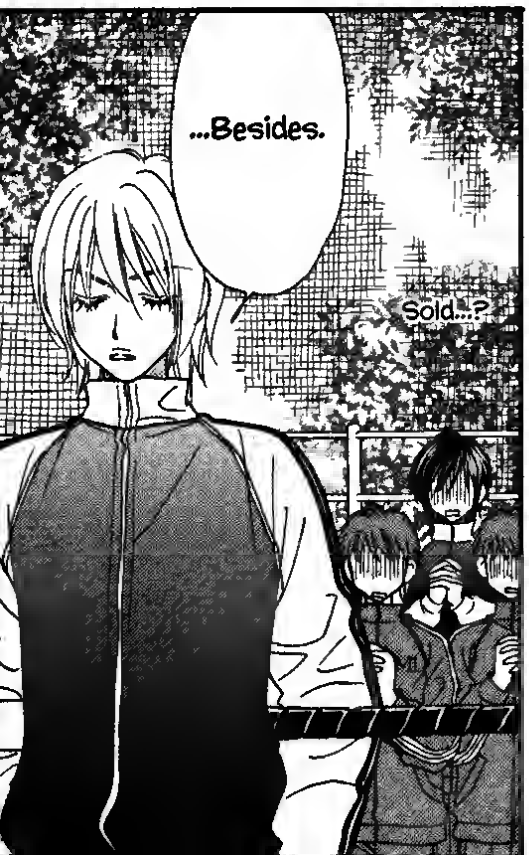
Bet?
If you win, I'll be good and give it up.
O-okay. Then let's make a bet!
TOSS
Hmmm, indeed.
Really?
What's the bet?
We're the field hockey club.
There be a Ping-Pong table on the deck of me salvage vessel!
Yer father has some confidence in his table tennis!
That's right. Natsuki, you're in the *hot springs table tennis club*, right!?

Eh?
Though I've never played it.
Mm. I see.
Oh well. It'll work out.
We'll be playin' a match in one week!
If you lose, you're to be coming with yer father, Natsuki!!
WAAAA HA HA HA HA
Eeeeehhh!?
All right.

Yaaaaawn.
Sleepy~~~
But that was incredible, Natsuki's father.
You don't look a thing alike.
How long has it been since the last time we had practice on a Sunday?
That's because I take after my mother.
I'm glad I don't look like him.
CRACK
SNAP
Come to think of it, we've been friends since middle school, but I've never met Natsuki's parents before.
Yeah.


That's because Dad's like that, and Mom has to work so she's not home very often.
Come on, practice, practice.
Anyway, we have to win the match and and make him give it up completely.
Eeehh? But it looks like fun, hunting for treasure.

You could give up school for just a year and go with him.
WAKU わく
WAKU わく
Yeah...
It'd be a waste.
It's not an experience you can get every day.
Indeed.


...Besides.
Sold...?

I had my fill of being *shot at* by guardships, attacked by *pirates*, and almost being sold into slavery.
When I was with my dad.

Natsuki...
Natsuki-sempai...
It's fun being with everyone; I love it.
I don't want to say good-bye.

...I see.
You're right. We're a team!
I'm sorry. We didn't think of how you felt.
We really would miss you if you were gone, Natsuki-sempai!
If you were gone, Natsuki-sempai, who would be in charge of snacks?
Okay! We will win this match, no matter what!
Got it, guys? We practice this week as if our lives depended on it!
Roger!
Guys...
Thank you.

Come on, come on, dammit! What are you gonna do if you can't get this pass through, you *incompetent losers!!!*

You're supposed to follow me! Have you guys really ever played hockey before!?
GOH
What are you doing? Don't stop it with your foot, *you moron!*
This hurts.
KAAAAN
What are you looking at!? Don't pass when there's nobody there!

Keep your eye on the ball! Stop it with your body!
I thought I told you not to run away!!!
TREMBLE
Who is he!?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
Ugh. What are you doing, getting worn out after five minutes?
GASP
GASP
In a match, we would have just started. Now stand up!
Uh, um, I have something I need to take care of.
M-me too...

SMILE
にーっこり
It's all right. I am well aware of that possibility.
Y-yes, but if we really did die, we couldn't play...
You said *we'd win no matter what,* didn't you?
Weren't you going to *practice as if your lives depended on it?*
Uh, um.
Uh, no, nothing.
Eh?
I think I'm gonna wet myself.
EEEEEEEK!
Now, stand up.
Let's work as hard as we can this week, okay? ♡

HOO
HA
HA
HA
HA
Today, your father will be crushing ye and taking ye with me, as promised!
Get ready, Natsuki!
DOOM
They're just nervous because we haven't had a match in so long.
Ye be looking a bit worn out.
Huh? What's wrong, everyone?
MEIRINKA
1

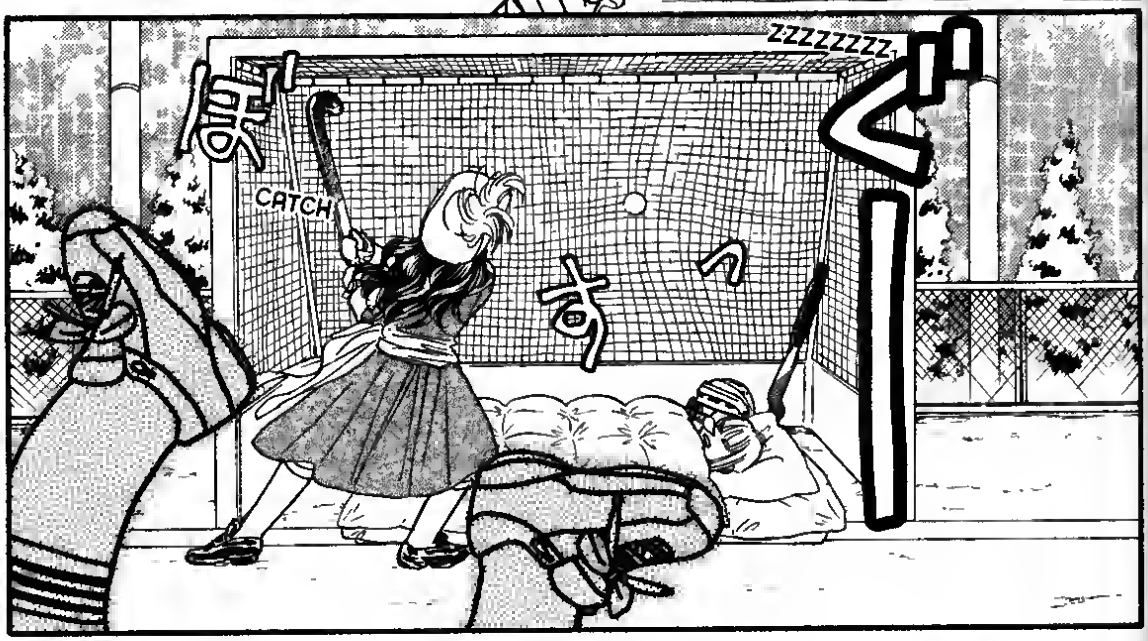
It's okay. It's just six-on-six, the court is small, and each half will only be fifteen minutes.
We raised our technical skills with our week-long intensive training, but we feel like our stamina and willpower have been exhausted.
We've seen a living hell...
Besides, it looks like they have even less stamina than we do.
Er, it looks like some of them would be better off not doing such intense exercise.
It looks like they could pop off at any second. It's scary.
DOG TOR

Yeah!
For Natsuki! We will have our first victory, no matter what!
Well then, this'll be a piece of cake.
MEIRINKAN
7
1
11
KAN
KAN
PIIIIII
What is this? We really didn't need that intensive training.
Piece of cake.
Izumi!
KAN

TWITCH
FAINT
Ugh!
My chronic pains...
Wh- what's the matter?
KAAAAN
Izumi- sempai!
Pains?

Wait, you...
Here, here!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
Aaaaaaaahh!
!?
When did they...!?
Are you two all right!?
P-pitfalls!?
Some-how...
CRUNCH
SEIRINKAN
SEIRINKAN
CRR-RUNCH

We're counting on you, Hana...!
All right, here it comes!
You let them pass you!
Eh!?
Takashi, you idiot!
KAAAAN


ZZZZZZZZ
CATCH

Hey, referee!
Wake up, Hana!
SNOOOORE
What's a high-class down quilt doing here!?
Darn right.
Nice shot!

Hey, Dad!
That's dirty!!
GRRRR
Heh heh heh. Contests don't need rules.
I didn't see anything.
いちゃ♡
ICHA
Goooooooal!
ICHA
いちゃ♡
ICHA
Give that back!
Ah! Why you! How dare ye be treatin' yer father like this!
BAH
MEIRINKAN
7
Why not just leave it off already?
It's wearing these stuffy hats that makes your hair get even thinner.

TSUUUN
Too bad. I take after Mom, so I won't go bald.
Ye won't be able to boast for long!!
Quiet! As my son, ye'll be ending up like this too someday!
MEIRINKAN
Aye-aye sir!
Hey, ye scurvy dogs!
Arrrrgh, now I be angry!
Now it's come to this, the contest don't be mattering. Ye'll be coming with me by force if need be!
HEH HEH HEH
Don't be playing rough with yer elders. If ye break their bones, they'll be in bed the rest o' their lives.
Natsuki-sempai!
Natsuki!
Hey, what are you doing?
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE

WAAAA
Izumi-sempai, we have to do something!
unngh!
Uwah! They really are dirty!
Constantly using dirty tricks...
はは
HA HA HA

Oh yeah.
!

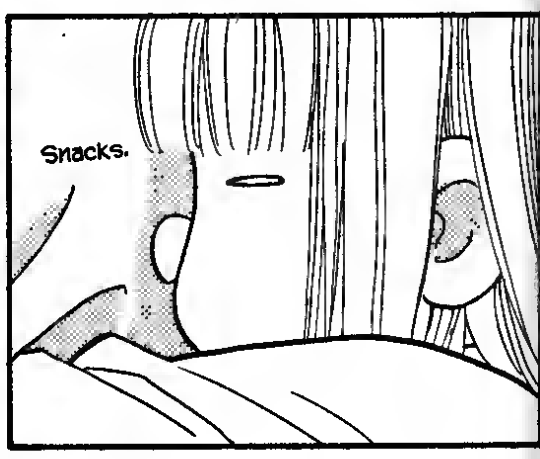
TWITCH
Your snack guy is being taken away!

Hana!
Hey, Hana, wake up!
Natsuki-sempai!
Take him.
Eeeep

ぎゅ
Gyuuuu
ラ

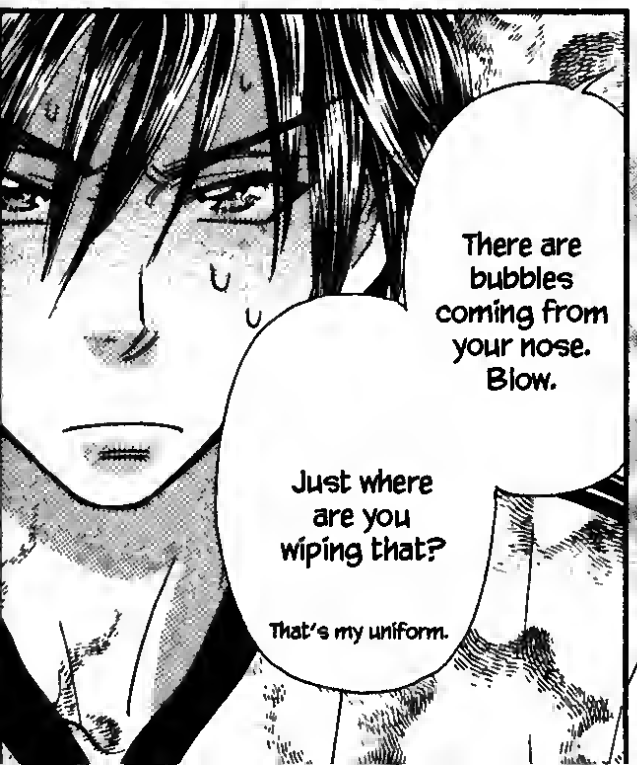
Who is that?
Natsuki's this?
Yes, this!
He's got strange taste.
TUG
TUG

Hana-chan.


Snacks.

SNOOOOORE
Y-yeah, that's right! It'd be too cruel to separate them!
They love each other so much! It would be terrible to pull them apart!

Ngh!
There, there.
Now, don't cry.
CLING
CLING


There are bubbles coming from your nose. Blow.
Just where are you wiping that?
That's my uniform.

It's okay, Hana-chan. I'm not going anywhere.
GYUUUUUU
We'll always be together.

Izumi-sempai!?
Hey! Izumi!?
YANK
You get away!!
On second thought, I'll do it!
Hey, cut that out!
You're creeping me out!
Don't go, Natsuki. If I have to be separated from you, I'd rather die!
Snacks.
MUNCH MUNCH
What? I be in the middle of...
TAP
TAP
Eh!?
W-wait a second!
Yar, high school kids these days. It's disturbing.
I don't be understanding what's going on, but if they want to be together so badly, bring the three of them!
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

What are you doing, dear?
H-huh?
Natsuki-sempai?
H-Haruko-chan!?
What are you doing here!?
I thought you were in South Africa!!

Natsuki called me a week ago.
I'm glad I made it in time.
Wh-what's going on!?
M-Mom...?
Are you okay, Izumi!?
BLEAGH
Mom.
Natsuki's got *jugs*!!
WHAM
TWITCH
FLINCH
Be quiet.
I thought contests don't need rules.
Why you! That's dirty!
A week ago!?
EIRINKA

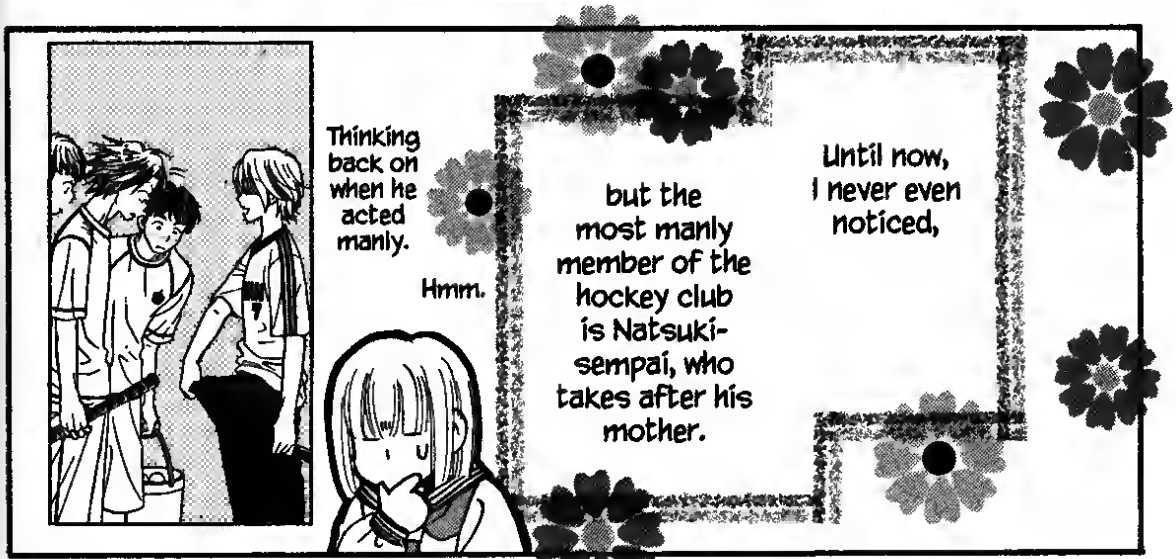
Really. Going around like that at age 46. It's beyond acting stupid; it's *just plain stupid.*
You're stupid enough on your own, so please don't make my son part of your *freakish hobby.*
Are you listening? What do you have to say for yourself?
Whine whine!
CHILL

N-no problem...
His mom, huh?
I'm sorry for troubling you.
DEEP BOW
ふかぶか
Thank you for always taking care of Natsuki.
PERK!
TURN
MEIRINKA
Please continue to get along with him.
にっこり
SMILE
I have mountains of things I still want to say to you, so come on now!
Where on earth have you been gallavanting off to?
And you hang up the phone as soon as things stop going your way.
Shoo, shoo.
Captain!
Cap'n!
Now go on, get going!
DRAG
Gya wa wah!

じー
STARE
バタバタ
BATAN
ブロロロ
VROOOM
MEIRINKAN
10
MEIRINKAN
9
MEIRINKAN
But our personalities are completely different.
You really do take after your mother...
You're scarily alike.
N-Natsuki.
What?
?
Such modesty...
MEIRINKA
7
MEIRINKAN
10
MEIRINKAN
9
MEIRINKAN
11

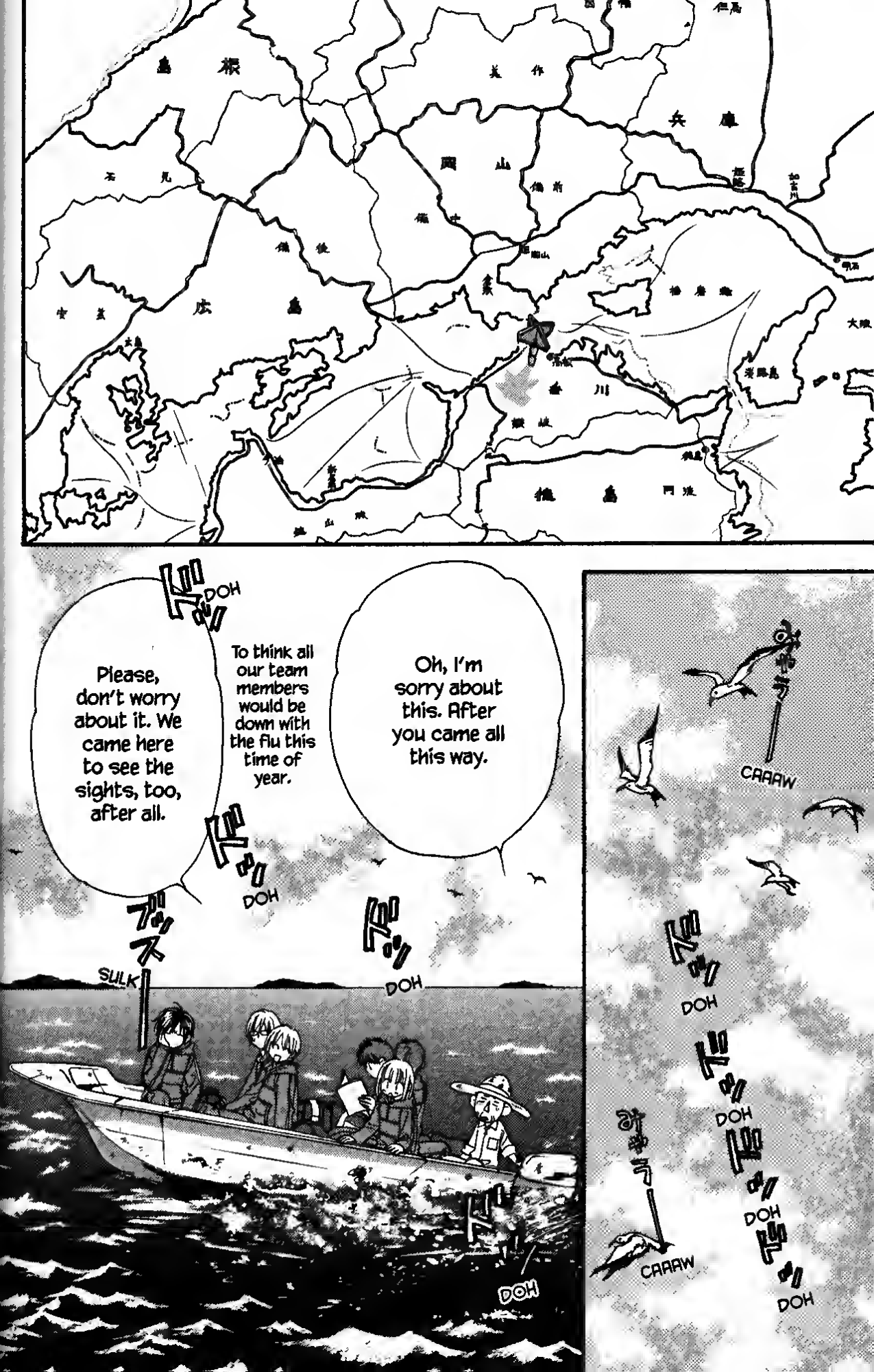
I don't really know what's going on, but you can still be in charge of snacks, right, Natsuki-sempai?
Thank goodness~~
Yup. Thank you, Hana-chan.
In charge of snacks...
That's a relief.
Now Dad should quiet down for a while.
it's thanks to all of you.
SMILE
にっこーり
Friends really are what you need.
Wh-
What are you saying?
We're a team. Of course we'd help you out.

They really are exactly alike!
His smile is scary...
No, we're fine!!
You seem a bit stiff.
MEIRIN
MEIRINKAN
10
1
MEIRINKAN
9
7


Thinking back on when he acted manly.
Hmm.
but the most manly member of the hockey club is Natsuki-sempai, who takes after his mother.
Until now, I never even noticed,

The End

Chapter 20: Destitute (XoX) Blue-Collar Hockey Club

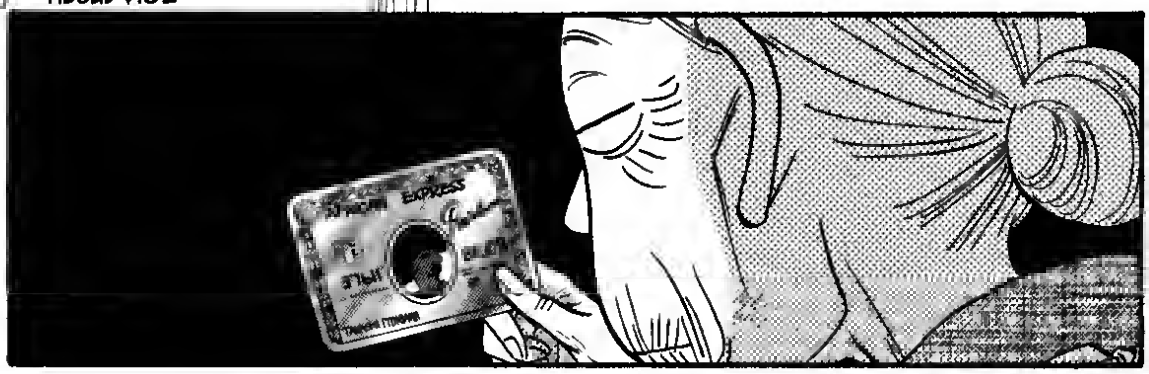

島根
広島
兵庫
岡山
香川
徳島
愛媛
高知
大阪
Oh, I'm sorry about this. After you came all this way.
To think all our team members would be down with the flu this time of year.
Please, don't worry about it. We came here to see the sights, too, after all.
DOH
DOH
DOH
SULK
DOH
CAAAW
CAAAW
DOH
DOH
DOH
DOH

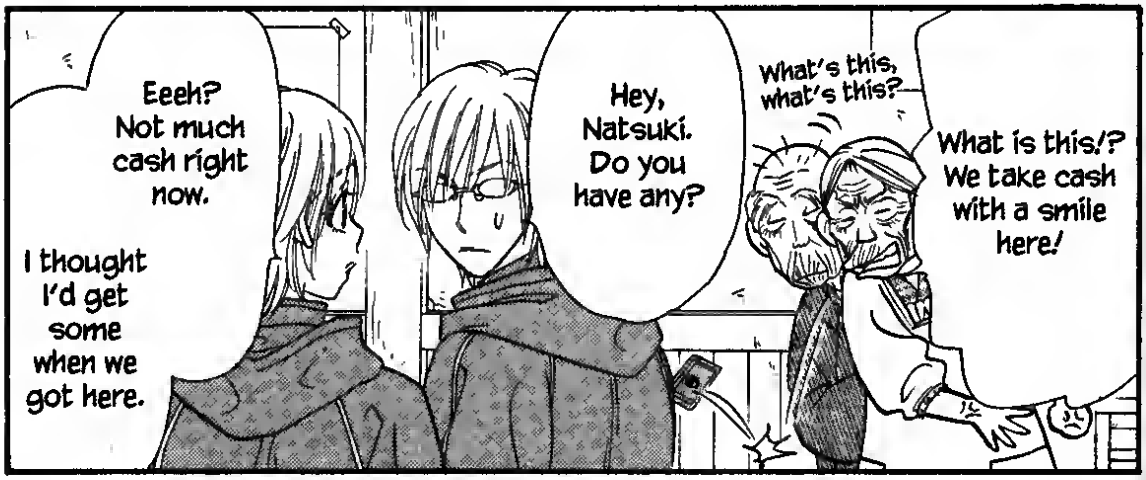
Hmm, we don't think so...
Hey, there's nothing wrong with that guidebook, is there?
There's nothing here to see.
But to come sightseeing at Ôdoshima? You are a curious bunch.
Thank you for taking the trouble to see us off at such a difficult time.
Bururu
Little-Known Vacation Spots
SULK
PYUUUUUU
Oh my, my, my, my.
Er, there's nothing wrong with this boat, is there?
Eeeeehh?
Hey, hey, Izumi-sempai!
Calm down!
SPLASH SPLASH
Waaaaahh!
W-we're sinking! Throw your stuff overboard! Hurry!

Oh, my. City folk sure are sensitive. Worrying over such a little thing.
WHEW
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
My bag!!
As long as someone has one wallet, we're okay.
Your wallet and cell phone were in there, too!!
What are we going to do? You threw away all our stuff!
Seriously!
I'm hungry. Let's go eat something.
Theirs weren't fine.
Hers is fine, but it won't do much good.
Mine, too.
Phew.
It's okay. Mine's safe.

Whewww.
Excuse me, check please.
That will be 19,200 yen.*
ビール
海賊焼き
三千五百
ハラミポン フライ
ひらめ

*About $192




Eeeh? Not much cash right now.
I thought I'd get some when we got here.
Hey, Natsuki. Do you have any?
What's this, what's this?
What is this!? We take cash with a smile here!

ちゃりーん
JINGLE
What about you, Hana-chan?
Let's see...
I've never seen a card this color. Is it real?
BITE
BITE
Grandpa, call the police.
Aye, aye sir.
WARARARA!
W-wait, just a minute, please!
There's a very good reason for this!
Quiet, you dine-n-dashers!
GARA
GARA
Hello!

Oh, is something wrong?
Mariko-chan! ♡
Oohh!
I have your eggs. Sorry they're late.
Tamamago Eggs
ドキ
DOKI
Goodness, all of your things are in the ocean?
That must have been terrible.
You poor things. They say they'll pay, so why don't you forgive them today?
Hmmm, but—

Please?
If you can't, then I'll pay for them.
That's just how Mariko-chan is.
Indeed.
Thank you very much.
No, I'm glad it worked out.
Um, is there a place to withdraw cash near here?
An ATM would do.
Oh, you have to go to the next island.
Eeeeehh?
This is a problem. Looks like the inns won't take cards, either.

にこーり
SMILE
I can't do much by way of hospitality, but...
Eh!?
May we!?
There aren't any more boats going out, so would you like to stay at my place?
ぴくっ
TWITCH
In a helicopter or cruiser or something.
Eeehh? But Izumi-sempai, you could just make a phone call and someone would come bring cash, right?
?
Thank you for your kindness!!
もがが
Mmph, mm-mmph!

Eeeehhh!?
Ôdoshima Farm
So you run this farm by yourself!?
My husband died of an illness three years ago.
And we have debts from when we started the farm.
For various reasons, anyone I hire quits right away.

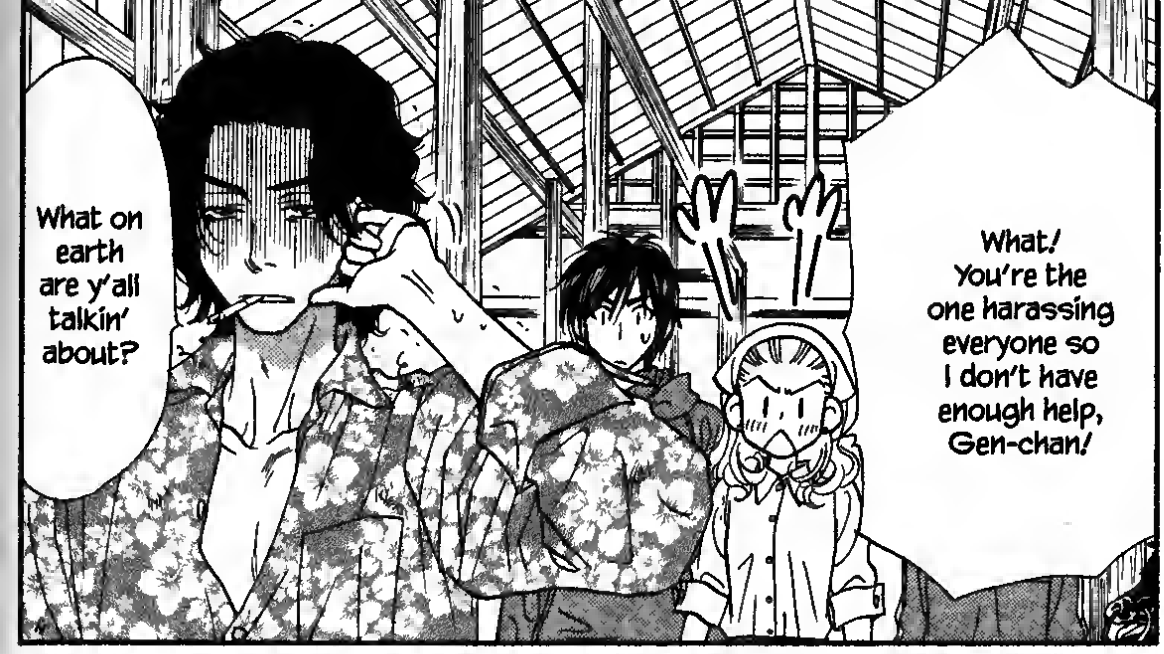
Even by myself,
I have to work hard to protect it.
It must be terrible.
Yes. But this farm was my husband's dream, so I can't just let it go.
STARE
But I'd feel bad. You're on a vacation.
If there's anything we can do, please tell us.
Eh!?
Um!
We can help during the long holiday!

Goodness, really?
It's thanks for helping us out!!
What's that, Hana? What do you mean!?
Eh?
For the sake of the farm, you'd better give it up.
Eeehh? Wouldn't you actually just get in the way?
Thank you. You're life savers.
I was just having trouble because someone quit again.
Then maybe I'll take you up on your offer.

ほわん
GLOW
It's a farm. We'll have to get up early, won't we?
This sucks...
Hana-chan, would you like sec-onds?
Please. ♡
This cheesecake is too delicious! ♡
Ugh. This is why I hate boys...
Eh heh heh. With you enjoying it so much, it was worth the effort of making it.
Well, maybe I kind of understand that we can't just leave her alone.
I guess I'll put out a little effort.
Hana-chan, do you mind staying with me in my room?
It's been so long since I've slept in the same room with someone, I'm excited! ♡
Nope! ♡
And this kind of feels nice!
Jealousy...
KUH KUH KUH

MOOOO
MOOOOOO
GAH
KAPOW
My, my.
Hey, Izumi, watch out!
MOOOO
Huh?
MOOO
GYAAAH!
SNAP
DODODODODOH

...Wh
THUD
Gen-chan.
when did you get more hands?
I wonder how long they'll last this time.
What do you want?
Didn't I tell you that I would pay all of the money at the end of the holidays?
End of the holidays, huh?
CLICK
KACHI
Y'all are three months behind payin' your debt already. Can y'all afford to wait?
Y'all still have ten million* yen left.
*About $100,000


What on earth are y'all talkin' about?
What! You're the one harassing everyone so I don't have enough help, Gen-chan!

Just give up on this here farm.
Well, I'll come check up on y'all later.
Work hard.

Yes, we were friends when we were little.
Is that debt collector an acquaintance of yours?
You don't have to come!
おはは
WAH HA HA HA
WOBBLE
WOBBLE

Not really.
I don't have enough help, so I sold off some of the dairy cows.
Your debts are worse than I thought.
You have until the end of the holiday. Will you be okay?
He's been so mean to me ever since we were little!
Every day, he comes to taunt me!
He's a real creep!
I see. That is a problem.
And there's no time. We have to do something.
And the chickens are laying fewer eggs these days.

Eh!?
In that case, there's no problem!
BAKAWK
Ju–
?
Just a–! Hey!
BAWK
BA-BA-BAWK
GACHA
GACHA

Wooow! There are so many!
And it's evening!
That's our Itoigawa-sempai.
Uwaaaahhhh!
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
When it comes to chickens, leave it to Takashi!
That is helpful. Thank you.
Let's do our best together.
We will work this out.

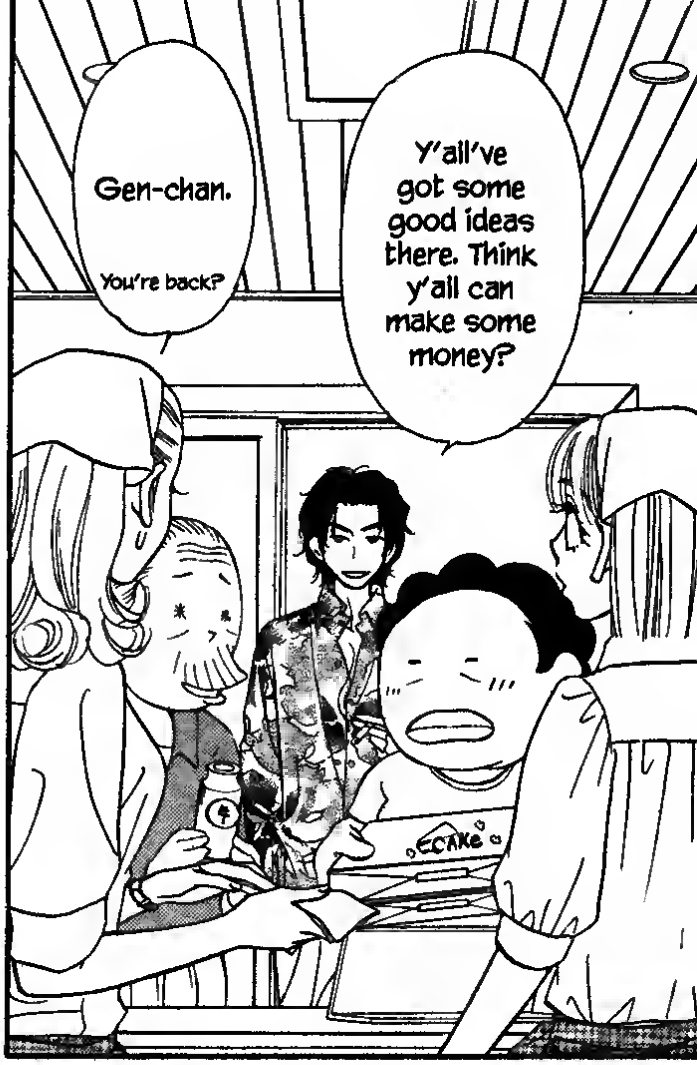
Yes.
That cake *was* delicious! ♡
I'll have Mariko-san make some cheesecake and put it on sale.
Then I'll make fliers and hand them out!
It might be good to have Takashi do his best and make it an egg farm.
It is a long holiday, so maybe people will come to the farm to experience milking cows.
Milking cows
An experience for the whole family! Drink some tasty milk!

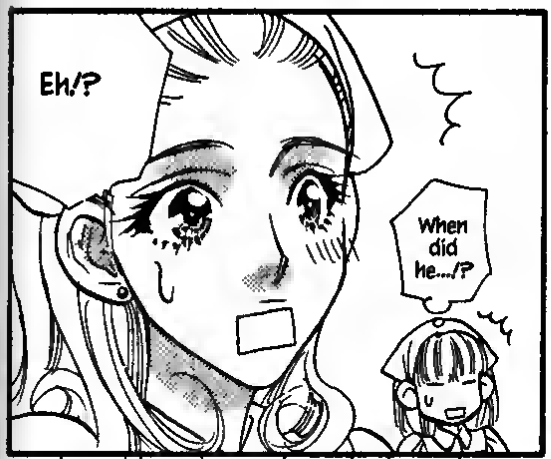
But what the heck is with you guys?
It's not like you.
I feel like normally you'd just buy the whole farm.
This time, we won't rely on our parents' money!
Because Mariko-san is working so hard with her delicate arms.
MM-HM.
We want to do something for her through our own efforts.
Hmmm.
They've progressed...
Though their motives seem less than pure.
Got it, guys?
The housewife controls the budget.
We will protect this farm, no matter what!
Yeah!
Hana-chan, let's take a bath together.
Okay.
Lucky Hana-chan...
B-BMP
B-BMP

Welcome!
Ôdo
Open: 9:00 - 4:30
Admission: 500 yen
Cow Milking: 10am, 3pm
Egg Farming: 9:00 - 4:30
Sir, how much would this be?
It would be 2,300 yen.*
*About $23
Anyone who makes a purchase of 2,980 yen* or more, without exception, gets a kiss on the cheek from whichever boy they like best.
*About $29.80
Eh!?
I'd like one of these, please.
Me too! I want all of them!
WAI
CAKE

The housewife is very strict, so this is how it is.
Yes, please line up over here!
Thank you!
Oy, Hana, what's this about?
Why not? It's an extra service.
I never heard of that!
Thank you very much!
Isn't 2,980 yen kind of cheap?
Yes we will!!
It's okay, it's okay. They're men; they won't run out.
They haven't been married yet.
Is it okay to have them go so far for us, Hana-chan?
Thank you. You really are lifesavers.
WAI
WAI
We've sold so much, it looks like proceeds will be pretty good.
I hope everything works out.

I bought 2,980 yen's worth too, but could I get a *kiss* from Mariko-chan?


Gen-chan.
You're back?
Y'all've got some good ideas there. Think y'all can make some money?
CAKE


Eh!?
When did he.../?

手作りチーズケーキ ¥780
飲むヨーグルト ¥210
牛乳プリン ¥350
牧場パンケーキ ¥560
Well then, be seein' y'all. Good luck.
The holiday'll be over before y'all know it.

I was just askin'.
If you must have a kiss, I will do it in her place.
No!
SHUFFLE

.....
Aaahhh.
千円
The holiday's almost over.
That was fast.
I feel like we sold so much, but this is all we have?
It's nowhere near enough.

Ugh, what a pain.
I didn't think earning money was so hard.
That's right. Without doing something like this, you don't understand the value of money.
It's a good opportunity
It's enough. Really, thank you.
It couldn't be helped. We sold at low prices.
Hmmm, yeah.
We'll have to think of a way to earn more.
What do we do? We don't have time.
I wonder if he's here to taunt me again.
It's Gen-chan.
Hide the pro-ceeds.
Grr
Mariko? Y'all there?
Izumi-sempai.
Use this as capital and go to the bicycle race or boat race.
Sick of this already?
I'm sure there is one nearby.
GACHA GACHA
*About $100 each

Did y'all raise the money?
What do you want?
I'm busy right now.
I know it's sudden, but...
If y'all can't pay off the entire debt by the end of the holiday, could y'all get out of here?
Eh...?
There's gettin' to be talk of buildin' a resort hotel here.
Seems like there'd be a good market for it.
How could you be so self-ish?
How can I pay ten million yen so suddenly?
Self-ish?
Actually, I wouldn't've minded havin' y'all move out as soon as your husband died.
I've waited long enough.

If y'all don't want to, marry me.
Huh?
If y'all marry me, I'll pretend we never talked about this.
HEH HEH HEH HEH
Um...
I don't quite follow...
.....

Pervert landlord! Pervert landlord!
Why you! What is this!? You're an evil landlord!!?
.....
Shut up. It's none o' y'all's business.
SNAP
Well, all y'all *poor people* can do is sell a few souvenirs by the road and make a few pennies.
Ah.
If y'all got a problem, y'all can pay the debt back in full right now.

Aaaaaugh! I give up!
This is a pain!
I'll use what I can use after all!!
Figures...
We really shouldn't push ourselves.
Yeah.
Can't take it anymore!

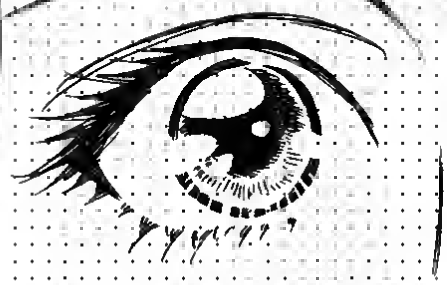
Mariko-san, let me use your phone.
Y-yes.
?
RRRRRING
GACHA
Yeah, it's me.
Bring me ten million yen right now.
GACHAN
Yeah. Ôdoshima. Thanks.
Thank you very much.
Iz-
Izumi-kun...?
BARA
BARA
BARA
BARA

Ten Thousand Yen
Ten Thousand Yen
Ten Thousand Yen
Ten Thousand Yen*
*About $100

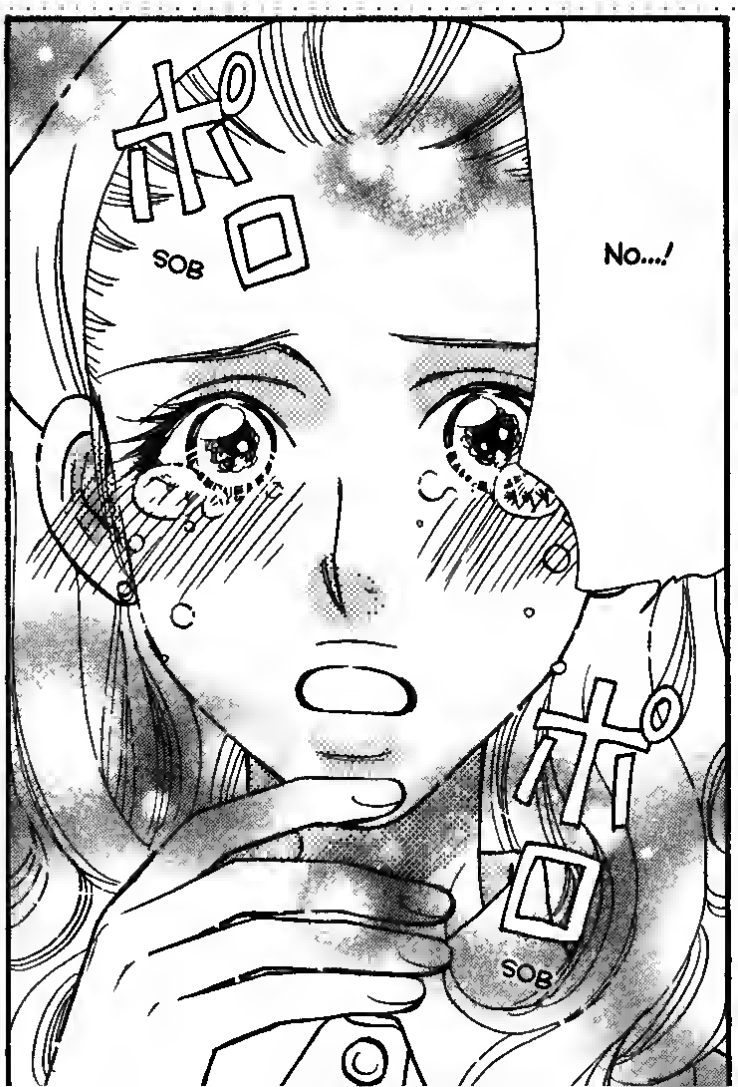
The remaining debt of ten million yen has been paid in full!
Here.
Mariko-san.
It's okay, now.

We're happy for you.
Izumi-kun...
...No.
What? You have a problem?
Eh?
I've got my money back.
I won't be comin' back anymore.
Sorry to've bothered y'all.

Well, happy trails.



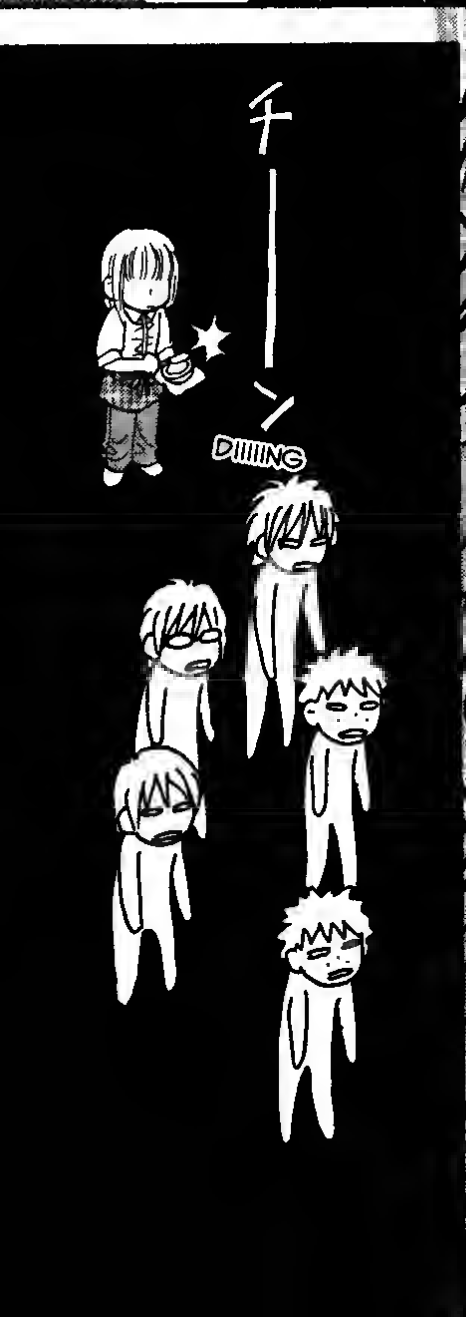
I'll put my seal on the receipt and send it to y'all.



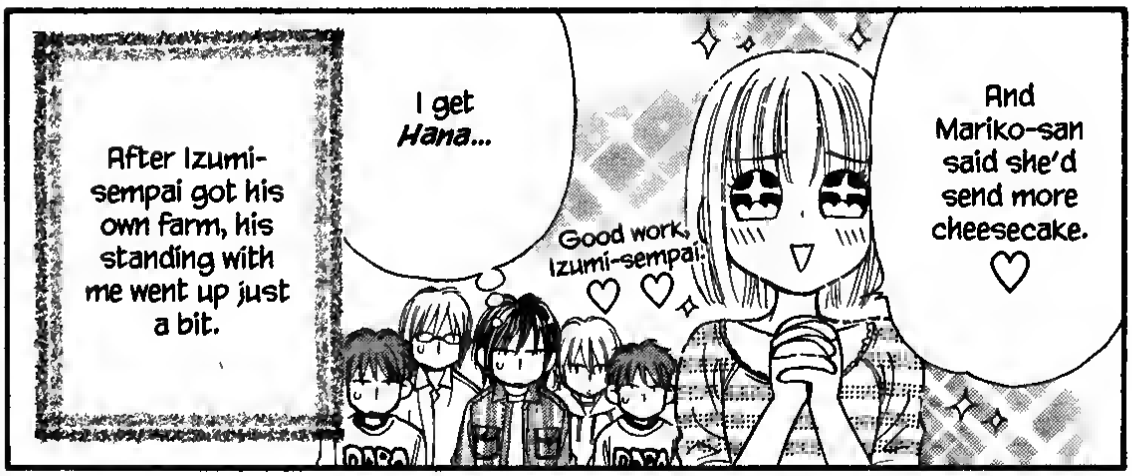
Wha—
What're y'all cryin' for?
I don't get it!
Y'all must be relieved that y'all won't have to see my face again.
Y'all've always hated me anyway, Mariko.
You won't come to see me anymore?
Eh?
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
Until now, you've come every day for no reason but to taunt me,
but I'd miss you if I never saw you again.
Uh, um...
Just a...
Mariko...
You'll miss me, Gen-chan...?

Mariko!
Gen-chan...!
But y'all never noticed, and went off and got hitched.
I was so hurt...!
Idiot! Of course I'd miss y'all!
No! Really!?
I've loved y'all since kindergarten!

I'm sorry. I'm so stupid.
.....
If only you'd said something, Gen-chan.
ICHA
Ooh
Then I'll ask y'all again. Will y'all marry me?
Eh?
Yes, I'd love to.

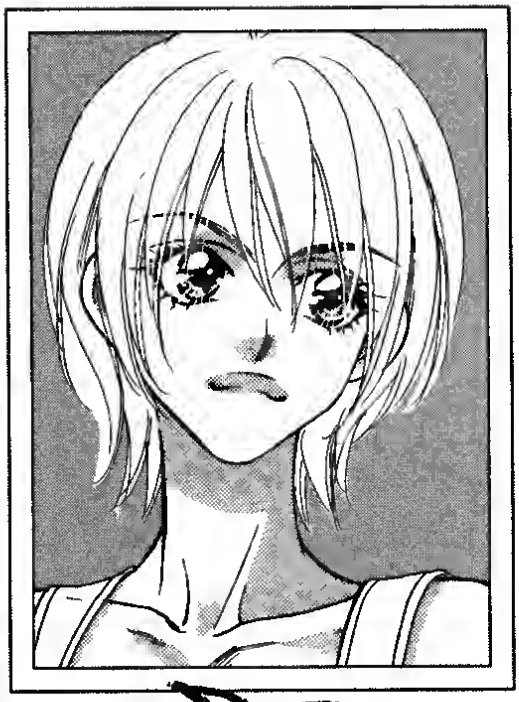

チーン
DIIIING

Eeeeehhh!?


After Izumi-sempai got his own farm, his standing with me went up just a bit.
I get *Hana*...
Good work, Izumi-sempai. ♡ ♡
And Mariko-san said she'd send more cheesecake. ♡

The End
Look forward to
Volume 6

Hockey Club ♨ Character Profile No.4



Natsuki Serizawa

Birthday	November 9th
Blood type	AB
Height	175 cm (about 5'9")
Hobbies	Reading, watching movies, bathhouse tours
Special skill	Feeding animals, making tea
Favorite food	Raw food
Least favorite food	He'll eat anything
Favorite subjects	Math, biology
Least favorite subjects	Nothing in particular
Favorite type of girl	Smart girls
Other (notes)	Quick to undress

Motto

Be open in relationships

♨ Famous Scene Selections ♨

▲ Natsuki is actually the most manly member of the Hockey Club. ♥

▲ With the face of an angel, he speaks the words of a devil....

▼ Despite his feminine appearance, it would seem he possesses something quite admirable....

▲ For some reason, he has been appointed as the person in charge of Hana's snacks.

Find the differences. ♪ Can you tell them apart!?

Hockey Club ♨ Character Profile No.5

Kinta Ayuhara

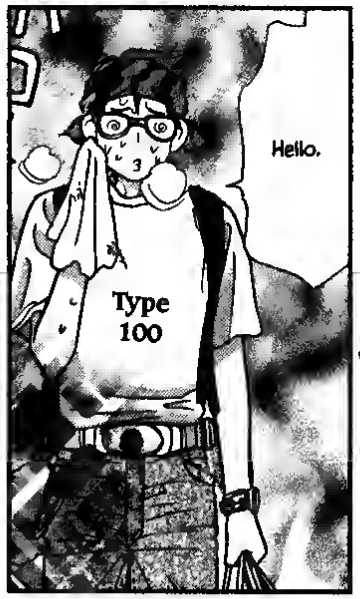
Birthday	June 6th
Blood type	O
Height	169.1 cm (about 5'6.6")
Hobbies	Traveling, trying food at various restaurants, hockey
Special skill	Imitating Ginta
Favorite food	Hashed meat with rice
Least favorite food	Insects
Favorite subjects	P.E., English
Least favorite subject	Chinese literature
Favorite type of girl	Cute, laid-back girls
Other (notes)	He hates being mistaken for his younger brother!

Motto

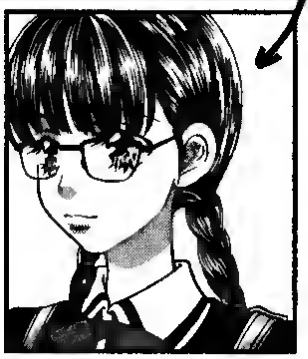
A man's gotta have guts!

♨ Famous Scene Selections ♨

▼ He transformed into an Akiba-type, and suffered an honorable defeat.



▲ The older brother's first love is...



◀ Rin-chan from St. Johannes Girls Academy.

▼ He's the older brother.

Note: These two pages are not copies!!

Hockey Club Character Profile No.6

Ginta Ayuhara

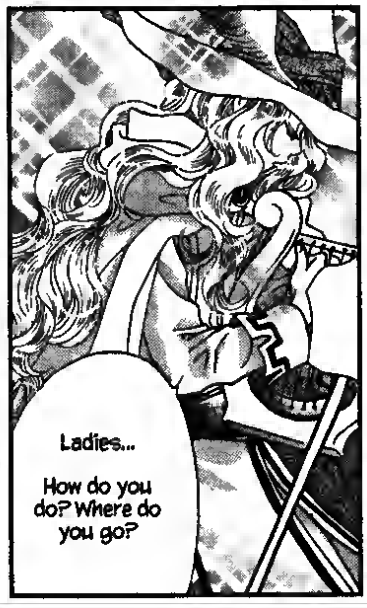
Birthday	June 6th
Blood type	O
Height	169 cm (about 5'6.5")
Hobbies	Trying food at various restaurants, traveling, hockey
Special skill	Imitating Kinta
Favorite food	Curry with rice
Least favorite food	Bizarre foods
Favorite subjects	P.E., English
Least favorite subject	Classical literature
Favorite type of girl	Cute, spaced-out girls
Other (notes)	He hates being mistaken for his older brother!

Motto

We're all brothers!

Famous Scene Selections

▼ He transformed into a minstrel, and suffered an honorable defeat.



▲ The younger brother's first love is...

◀ Rin-chan from St. Johannes Girls Academy.

▼ He's the younger brother.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Mogo'o-kun, page iv

Mogo is the sound of munching, and *o* is a common suffix for boys' names. Morinaga-sensei probably named him while watching him munch leaves.

Koiwai Farm!!
Uni! Maesawa beef!
I don't care anymore.
Oh. Really.
And we're gonna meet a yeti!
What are you talking about? Everyone knows winter training camp means skiing and hot springs!

Uni, Maesawa beef, page 6

Uni means "sea urchin," and is a local delicacy of Iwate Prefecture. Iwate is also a good place to raise cattle, and the beef raised in the town of Maesawa is known for being delicious as well as low in fat.

Koiwai Farm, page 6

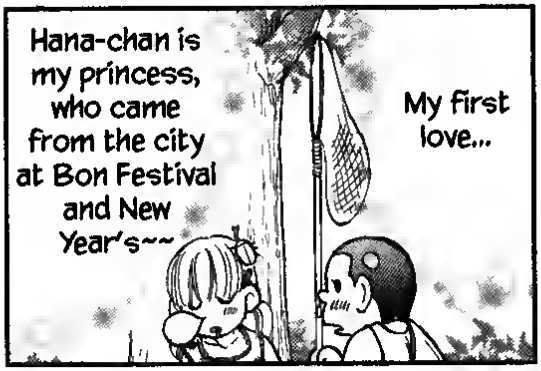
Koiwai Farm is a dairy and egg farm at the foot of Mt. Iwate. It's also a great tourist attraction.

Manjû, page 10

Manjû are steamed yeast buns with filling. In this case, they're shaped to look like yeti.

Daiginjô softcream, page 11

Rice-wine-flavored soft ice cream.

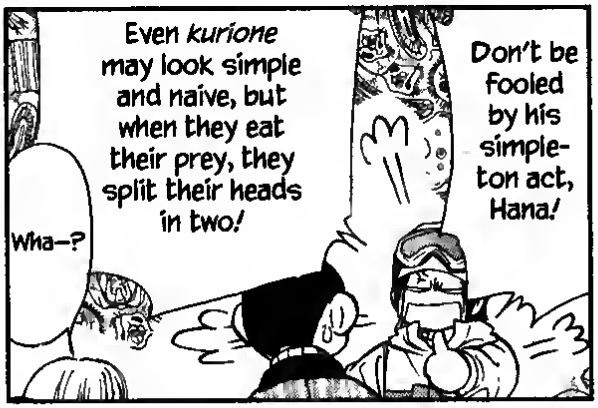


Bon Festival and New Year's, page 11

In Japan, the two big family holidays are the Bon Festival and New Year's. The Bon Festival is a Buddhist festival to honor one's ancestors.

Kurione, page 21

A *kurione* is a type of shellfish that lives in the waters of northern Japan. Because of its appearance, it is called the "angel of the ice floes." It surprises its prey—and then devours it quickly—with the mouth on top of its head.

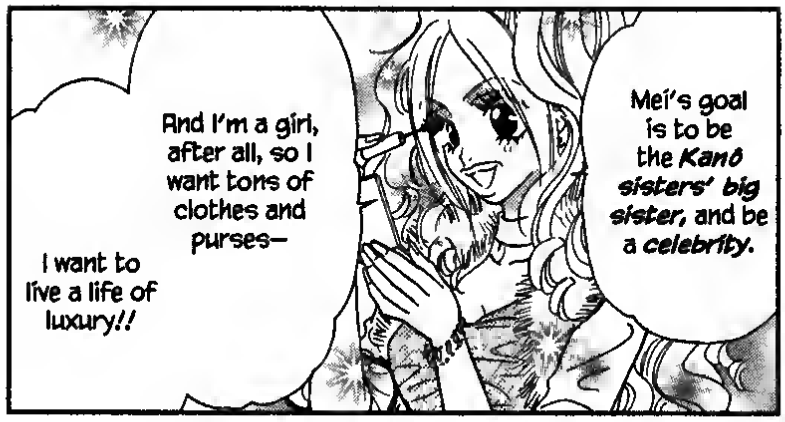

Even *kurione* may look simple and naive, but when they eat their prey, they split their heads in two!
Wha—?
Don't be fooled by his simple-ton act, Hana!

Go back right now and go to school.
A little run-away?
I got enough money for New Year's to take the *shinkansen*, so I came to visit. ♡

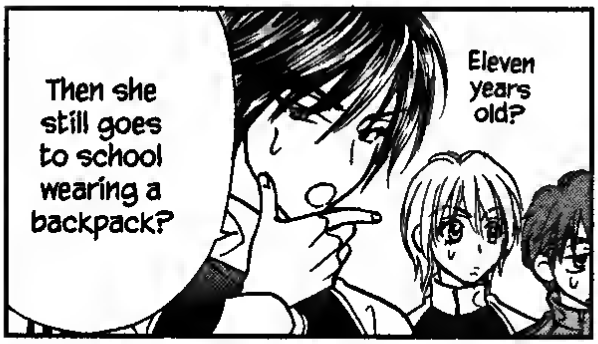
Shinkansen, page 50

The *shinkansen* is the bullet train.

Kanô Sisters, page 51


I want to live a life of luxury!!
And I'm a girl, after all, so I want tons of clothes and purses—
Mei's goal is to be the *Kanô sisters' big sister*, and be a *celebrity*.

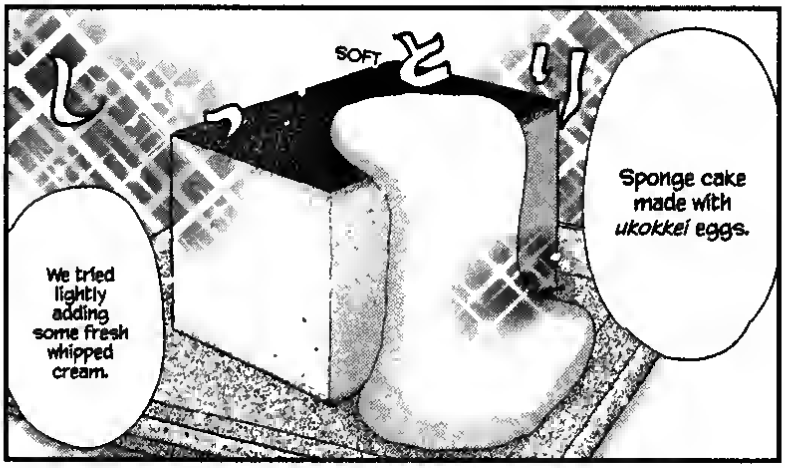
The Kanô sisters are Japanese celebrities who claim to be half sisters, but no one knows if it's true. They also refuse to answer questions about their real ages, so it is possible for Mei to become their "big sister," despite being only eleven.



Backpack, page 55

In Japan, kids wear backpacks to elementary school, but when they get to higher education, they usually carry bookbags instead.

Ukokkei, page 56



Ukokkei, or silkie, chickens are a breed of ornamental chicken with fluffy white feathers, found in Asia. In China, their meat and eggs are thought to have medicinal properties.

Mobile suit, page 67

In the world of Gundam, "mobile suit" originally referred to a moving space suit used for the building of space colonies. But since that time, humanoid military spacecraft have come to be called "mobile suits" as well.

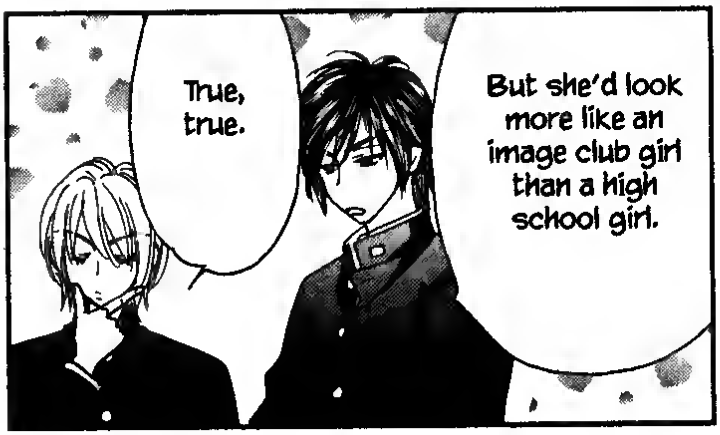
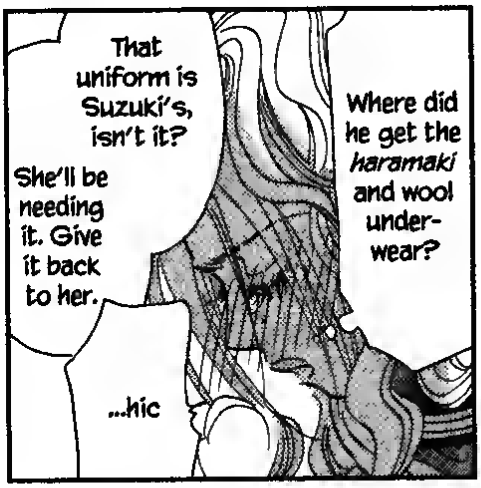


Image club, page 72

An image club is basically a cosplay brothel, or a brothel where the prostitutes dress up as nurses, maids, high school students, etc.

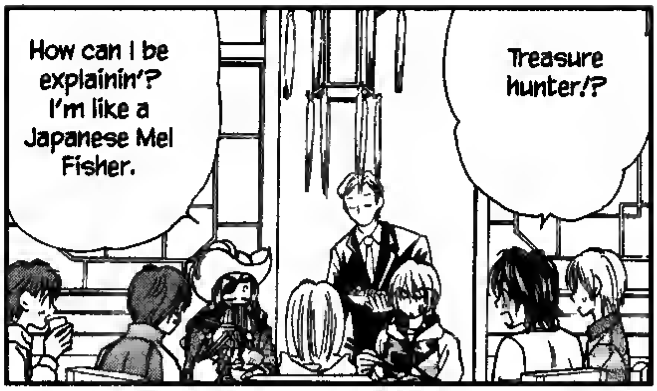
Haramaki, page 74

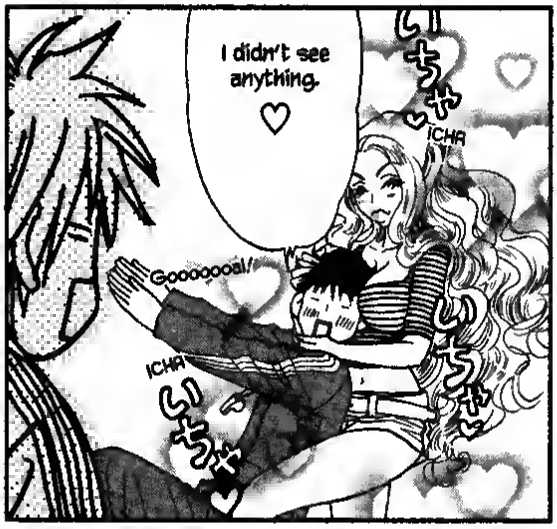
Haramaki, or stomach wraps, are used to keep the stomach warm.


That uniform is Suzuki's, isn't it?
She'll be needing it. Give it back to her.
...hic
Where did he get the *haramaki* and wool underwear?

Mel Fisher, page 94

Mel Fisher is an American treasure hunter. He is famous for salvaging the wreck of the Spanish galleon *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*, which sunk while carrying lots of treasure.





Icha, page 114

Icha is the sound of being all over somebody in a flirtatious manner.

Natsuki's "this," page 117

The gesture Natsuki's father is making is Japanese sign language for "woman," so he's asking if Hana is Natsuki's woman, or girlfriend.